

Career Pathway: Animal Systems

Get the Facts

The Animal Systems Pathway encompasses the study of animal systems, including content areas such as life processes, health, nutrition, genetics, management and processing, as applied to small animals, aquaculture, exotic animals, livestock, dairy, horses and/or poultry.

Workforce Trends

Farmers and ranchers produce one-fourth of the world's beef and one-fifth of the world's grain, milk, and eggs here in the United States.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Recommended Pathway Courses

Students may select individual courses for exploration or a complete Pathway for an in-depth focus

CLASS AVAILABILITY MAY VARY AT YOUR SCHOOL

Course #	Foundation Courses (required)	Credit
18001	Introduction to Agriculture (Ag I)	.5/1.0
18002	Agriculture- Comprehensive (Ag II)	.50/1.0
18101	Animal Production/Science	0.5/1.0
18307	Agriculture and Society	.50/1.0
Elective Courses		
18102	Small Animal Care	.50/1.0
18103	Large Animal Care	.50/1.0
18104	Equine Science	.50/1.0
18105	Veterinary Science	.50/1.0
18203	Agricultural Leadership	.50/1.0
18202	Agricultural Entrepreneurship	0.5/1.0
18148	Animal Systems-Workplace Experience (SAE)	.50/1.0

18

1.0 credit

1.0 credit

2.0 credits for completion

Careers in

Agriculture are:

- High demand/High skill/High wage

Career Examples

- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Assistant
- Livestock Producer
- Livestock Buyer
- USDA Inspector
- MDL Inspector
- Embryo Technologist
- Animal Nutrition

According to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, the median hourly wage for occupations within Animal Systems is \$23.30.

State Graduation Requirements

High School

[Administrative Rules of Montana 10.55.905](#)

Suggested High School Plan of Study

College and Career

High School Administrative Rules of Montana 10.55.905		9th Grade Suggested	10th Grade Suggested	11th Grade Suggested	12th Grade Suggested
English/Language Arts	4.0	English 9 1.0	English 10 1.0	English 11 1.0	English 12 1.0
Mathematics	2.0	Math* 1.0	Math* 1.0	Math* 1.0	Math* 1.0
Social Studies	2.0	Social Studies* .50/1.0	Social Studies* .50/1.0	U.S History 1.0	U.S. Government 1.0
Science	2.0	Earth Science 1.0	Biology 1.0	Science Elective*	
Health Enhancement	1.0	P.E./Health* .50	P.E./Health* .50	P.E./Health Electives*	
Arts	1.0	Arts Courses* 1.0			
Career and Technical Education	1.0	Pathway Foundation Course .50/1.0	Pathway Foundation Course .50/1.0	Pathway Elective Course .50/1.0	Pathway Elective Course .50/1.0
Work-Based Learning		Participation in a Pathway-related work-based learning experience			
Career and Technical Student Organization		National FFA Organization			

Beyond High School

There are many options for education and training beyond high school, depending on your career goals.

- Certificate
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Professional degree
- On-the-job training
- Apprenticeship
- Military training

For more information on salary projections, labor market demand, and training options, visit lmi.mt.gov.

- *Talk to your school counselor about requirements in the core curriculum. Core curriculum and elective requirements vary district to district.
- Many CTE courses may qualify for dual enrollment credit, which in some cases may earn up to 1.0 credit toward Pathway completion. Talk to your school counselor about availability.

- Dual enrollment course offerings vary by school and district.
- Many Montana post-secondary programs accept high school courses toward a two- and four-year degree through dual enrollment. Check with post-secondary campuses for details.