

Thinking About Post-Grad Options? Start Here!

We are happy that you're already thinking about potential options for after graduation! Below, we've outlined a few different pathways students within our majors often pursue post-graduation, as well as some tips and resources for starting the journey during your first year as a student at UC Davis! Please keep in mind that this list is not exhaustive and there are many directions you can go with a degree in AEE, ANM, or ANS!

I'm interested in going to **professional school** (veterinary school, dental school, medical school, law school, teaching certificate program, etc.) after graduation.

What should I do now to prepare?

What resources are available to help me navigate the process?

I'm thinking about pursuing **graduate school** (Masters or PhD).

Where do I start?

What kind of experiences should I pursue?

What resources are offered on campus?

I want to **enter the workforce** after graduation.

What should I be thinking about to ensure that I will be a strong candidate for employment?

Who should I contact for more guidance on preparing for my career?

The most important thing you can do during your first quarter (and first year) at UC Davis is to focus on doing well in your classes and finding a study system that works for you. Many professional school programs have specific GPA requirements in order to apply so it is important to do well in order to be a competitive applicant.

During your first year, start thinking about which schools you might want to apply to. Every professional school has different requirements, so it will be important to narrow down your list. Some things to think about are location, cost, types of experiences available, areas of specialty offered, etc. The more research you do, the easier it will be to narrow down your schools.

Once you've narrowed down where you'd like to apply, it's time to take advantage of some of the on-campus resources:

- Health Professions Advising: https://hpa.ucdavis.edu/
- **Pre-Law Advising:** https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/services/pregradlaw/law

Much of graduate education revolves around conducting research. As a top tier public research university, UC Davis offers ample opportunity to participate in (and to potentially conduct your own!) research. During your first year, make it a point to speak with your instructors and TAs during office hours. Learn more about their research as well as their own personal academic journey that led them to where they are now.

Once you have a firm grasp on your academics, speak with instructors or TAs about getting involved with their research. Many researchers appreciate additional help, but keep in mind that a time commitment is often required (usually 2-3 quarters). It is important to be realistic about all of your time commitments in order to maintain a good GPA and good professional relationships (which will be helpful when you need letters of recommendation down the road).

There are quite a few resources on campus designed to help students prepare for graduate studies. When you're ready, we recommend exploring the following:

- Pre-Grad Advising: https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/services/pregradlaw/grad
- Undergraduate Research Center: https://urc.ucdavis.edu/

During your first year at UC Davis, it is important to explore different topics of interest to narrow down what you might like to pursue in a career. You can explore by: taking courses in different topics, joining clubs or attending information sessions, attending an advising appointment with the Internship and Career Center, conducting informational interviews, or by participating in an internship. While it is strongly encouraged to participate in internships, we recommend waiting until you have a strong grasp on your academics.

Keep in mind that your major does not necessarily equal your career and you may find yourself pursuing a career completely unrelated to your major! That's OK – your experiences, skills, and strengths will travel with you wherever you go!

Some resources to help you with your career exploration, planning, and search include:

- Internship and Career Center: https://icc.ucdavis.edu/
- Center for Leadership Learning: https://cll.ucdavis.edu/
- Animal Science Careers Page: https://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/academics/undergrad/careers