Animal Care & Husbandry Careers

Positions in Animal Care and Husbandry

Animal care and husbandry positions are varied. All of them require significant animal care experience, often with a wide variety of animals. Examples of positions include:

- Research Assistant
- Lab Animal Technician
- Veterinary Assistant
- Apiarist
- Breeding Program Technician
- Animal Caretaker
- Aquarist/Zookeeper
- Animal Care and Husbandry
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- And More...

Animal Care/Husbandry Career Information Links:

The American Zoological Association: [https://www.aza.org/careers_in_zoos_and_aquariums](https://www.aza.org/careers_in_zoos_and_aquariums)

American Association of Laboratory Animal Science: [https://www.aalas.org/careerline/careers#.V1YfSErKUk](https://www.aalas.org/careerline/careers#.V1YfSErKUk)

USA Jobs (Government Positions): [https://www.usajobs.gov/](https://www.usajobs.gov/)

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council: [https://theiwrc.org/](https://theiwrc.org/)


Recommended Courses

There are no generally required courses for animal care and husbandry positions. The following list includes coursework aimed at acquiring knowledge of animal diversity, behavior, and organismal biology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organismal Biology Courses</th>
<th>Pre(Co)requisites</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z 371: Vertebrate Biology and Z 372: Laboratory</td>
<td>BI 211, 212, 213</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>3+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z 361: Invertebrate Biology and Z 362: Laboratory OR</td>
<td>BI 211, 212, 213</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>3+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z 461: Marine and Estuarine Invertebrate Biology</td>
<td>BI 211, 212, 213</td>
<td>SU</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>FW 315: Ichthyology and FW 316: Systematics of Fishes</td>
<td>BI 211, 212, 213</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW 317: Mammalogy and FW 318: Systematics of Mammals</td>
<td>BI 211, 212, 213</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>3/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW 311: Ornithology and FW 312: Systematics of Birds</td>
<td>BI 211, 212, 213</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>3/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW 427: Principles of Wildlife Diseases</td>
<td>BI 211, 212</td>
<td>SP, SU</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills Courses</th>
<th>Pre(Co)requisites</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANS 311: Principles of Animal Nutrition</td>
<td>BI 211, 212</td>
<td>F, SU</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANS 316: Reproduction in Domestic Animals and ANS 317: Laboratory</td>
<td>BI 211, CH 231, ANS 121</td>
<td>W, SP</td>
<td>4/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANS 441: Topics in Animal Learning</td>
<td>BI 211, 212</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW 328: Wildlife Capture and Immobilization</td>
<td>BI 211, 212, 213</td>
<td>F, W, SU</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior Courses</th>
<th>Pre(Co)requisites</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z 350: Animal Behavior</td>
<td>BI 211, 212, 213</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 201 or 202: General Psychology</td>
<td></td>
<td>All</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 340: Cognition</td>
<td>PSY 201, PSY 202</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 381: Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>PSY 201, PSY 202</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 485: Behavioral Modification</td>
<td>PSY 350/380/381/481</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Animal Care Career Development Opportunities

**Animal Care Experience**

Gaining experience in your field of interest can be key to advancing your career. Students should focus on the quality of experience rather than the species of animal, as any relevant experience will facilitate an understanding of animal care/husbandry. Regional opportunities include:

- Oregon Zoo

- Oregon Coast Aquarium
  [http://www.aquarium.org](http://www.aquarium.org)

- Wildlife Safari
  [https://wildlifesafari.net/](https://wildlifesafari.net/)

- Chintimini Wildlife Center
  [https://www.chintiminiwildlife.org/](https://www.chintiminiwildlife.org/)

- Heartland Humane Society

- Safehaven Humane Society
  [https://safehavenhumane.org/](https://safehavenhumane.org/)

- Hatfield Marine Science Center
  [http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/](http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/)

- Hatfield Marine Science Center Aquarist Volunteers
  Contact: [http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/users/colleen-doyle](http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/users/colleen-doyle)

**Research Opportunities**

Research, while not required, can be particularly beneficial for laboratory animal care positions or for students interested in working with organizations with research as part of their mission. Research provides the opportunity to develop analytical and communication skills while expanding understanding of the scientific process and research methods. Some research labs also have specific opportunities to care for research animals. Find more information at:

[http://ib.oregonstate.edu/professional/research-internships](http://ib.oregonstate.edu/professional/research-internships)

**Informal Education**

For students interested in careers with zoos, aquariums and other public institutions, communicating with the public can be important for many positions. The following courses can be excellent preparation:

- COMM 111: Public Speaking, and additional COMM Courses
- SED 431: Overview of Free-Choice Learning
- SED 535: Communicating Ocean Science
- TRAL 493: Environmental Interpretation

**International Opportunities**

OSU GO has diverse international internship experiences that enable students to acquire experience handling and caring for captive/wild animals. Navigate to Veterinary & Animal Care at the following link for aligned programming:

[http://international.oregonstate.edu/osugo/academic-resources/go-abroad-your-major/biology-and-zoology](http://international.oregonstate.edu/osugo/academic-resources/go-abroad-your-major/biology-and-zoology)