Imagine a career caring for animals, rehabilitating sick or injured wildlife or running the tiger exhibit at a zoo! You can realize these career goals through our zoo animal care option.

Make an appointment with one of our faculty advisers to learn more about our fisheries and wildlife major.

**Career Path**

Zoo Keeper, Animal Rehabilitation Specialist, Animal Trainer

**Special Emphasis Courses**


**Internships Available**

Our students have enjoyed internships with Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo, the Lincoln Children’s Zoo, Raptor Recovery, and other organizations. Most students begin as volunteers in 10-week programs, which can result in paid keeper positions during the summer.
### Zoo Animal Care Option Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRES 386 Vertebrate Zoology[^np]</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Course: Select one course from: NRES 476 Mammalogy[^np], NRES 474 Herpetology[^np], BIOS 475 Ornithology, NRES 489 Ichthyology[^np]</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Course: Select one course from: AGRO 440 Great Plains Ecosystems, AGRO 442 Wildland Plants, BIOS 455 Great Plains Flora, HORT 212 Landscape Plants I, HORT 214 Herbaceous Landscape Plants NRES 310 Intro to Forest Management[^np], NRES 417 Agroforestry Systems in Sustainable Agriculture[^np], NRES 424 Forest Ecology[^np], NRES 426 Invasive Plants[^np], NRES 435 Agroecology[^np], RNGE 240 Forage Crop &amp; Range Management</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Course: Select one course from: ALEC 305 Presentation Strategies for Agricultural Audiences, EDPS 457 Learning and Motivation Principles for Secondary Teaching, NRES 434 Environmental Education &amp; Interpretation (3 cr), ALEC 412 Multimedia Applications for Education &amp; Training</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A&amp;P Course: Select one course from: ASCI 240 Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals, BIOS 213 &amp; BIOS 213L Human Physiology and Lab, BIOS 388 Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition Course: Select one course from: ASCI 320 Animal Nutrition and Feeding, ASCI 321 Companion Animal Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one from: NRES 399 Independent Research[^np] (1-5 cr), NRES 496 Independent Study[^np] (1-5 cr), NRES 497 Career Experience[^np] (1-6 cr), NRES 499 Thesis Research[^np] (3-6 cr), NRES 499H Honors Thesis[^np] (3-6 cr) Students interested in zookeeping careers should use NRES 497 to complete this requirement.</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Zoo Animal Care Option Electives (14 Hours)

Select from (at least 6 hours must be 300- or 400-level):

**Agricultural Economics courses**
- AECN 265 Resource & Environmental Economics I (3 cr)

**Agronomy courses**
- AGRO 370 Biology of Fungi (3 cr)
- AGRO 489 Urbanization of Rural Landscapes (3 cr)

**Animal Science courses**
- ASCI 171 Human-Companion Animal Interactions (2 cr)
- ASCI 251 Introduction to Companion Animals (3 cr)
- ASCI 271 Companion Animal Behavior (3 cr)
- ASCI 321 Companion Animal Nutrition (3 cr)
- ASCI 341 Physiology and Management of Reproduction (4 cr)
- ASCI 370 Animal Welfare (3 cr)
- ASCI 421 Advanced Animal Nutrition (3 cr)

**Biological Sciences courses**
- BIOS 312 Microbiology (3 cr)
- BIOS 373 Biopsychology (3 cr)
- BIOS 472 Evolution (4 cr)
- BIOS 487 Field Parasitology (4 cr)

**Chemistry courses**
- CHEM 251 Organic Chemistry (3 cr)

**Management courses**
- MNGT 300 Management Essentials for Contemporary Organizations (3 cr)

**Mathematics courses**
- MATH 107 Calculus I (4 cr)
- MATH 208 Calculus III (4 cr)
- MATH 238 Mathematical Methods for Biology & Medicine (5 cr)

**Natural Resources courses**
- NRES 104 Climate in Crisis (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 211 Intro to Conservation Biology (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 270 Biological Invaders (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 308 Biogeography (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 312 Introduction to Geospatial Information Sciences (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 316 Case Studies in Theoretical Ecology (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 348 Wildlife Damage Management (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 388 Employment Seminar (1 cr)[^np]
- NRES 412 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (4 cr)[^np]
- NRES 418 Introduction to Remote Sensing (4 cr)[^np]
- NRES 420 Applications of Remote Sensing in Ag. and Nat. Res. (4 cr)[^np]
- NRES 423 Integrated Resource Management (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 427 Introduction to Global Positioning Systems (2 cr)[^np]
- NRES 428 Leadership in Public Organizations (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 429 Natural Resources Management (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 450 Biology of Wildlife Populations (4 cr)[^np]
- NRES 459 Limnology (4 cr)[^np]
- NRES 487 Intro to Landscape Ecology (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 492 Natural Resources Study Tours (variable credit)[^np]
- NRES 497 Career Experiences in Natural Resource Sciences (3 cr)[^np]
- NRES 499 Thesis Research[^np]
- NRES 499H Honors Thesis[^np]

**Philosophy courses**
- PHIL 225 Environmental Ethics (3 cr)

**Physics courses**
- PHYS 142 Elementary General Physics II (5 cr)
- PHYS 211 General Physics I (4 cr)
- PHYS 212 General Physics II (4 cr)

**Political Science courses**
- POLS 210 Bureaucracy & the American Political System (3 cr)

**Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences courses**
- VBMS 303 Principles and Prevention of Livestock Diseases (3 cr)
- VBMS 408 Functional Histology (4 cr)

And/or any optional courses listed but not taken under the Base Science Courses, Fisheries and Wildlife Courses, or Option Requirements headings in this program.

### Free electives: 7 hours

This option is designed for students considering careers in zoo keeping, zoo animal care, animal rehabilitation, and animal training. Completion of this program also provides excellent preparation for graduate study.

[^np]: Course may not be taken as Pass/No Pass by FWL majors.