MEET OUR UNDERGRADUATES
LAUNCHING CAREERS IN HEALTH AND MEDICINE

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Helping animals, people, and the planet
When considering colleges, you want to find an academic program that fits your interests. You also want an academic community that will welcome, support, challenge, and inspire you.

Your professors and advisors have important roles, helping you learn, grow, think in new ways, and find new opportunities.

Your fellow students are another big part of your new community. These are your classmates and friends, the people who question, wonder, and discover alongside you. Together, you will shape each other – and our world.

So we’d like to introduce you to a few students in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Highlighted here are students with a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, and interests.

Yet they have a few things in common: They are scientists at heart, and came to our college seeking careers in health and medicine. Students in each of our four majors go on to medical school, veterinary school, and other professional schools. They go into research. They jump directly into careers tied to science, health, and medicine.

Our students care. They want to apply their skills and talents to help other people, to help animals, to help our world. And they’re ambitious: They’ve sought research projects, they’ve joined campus clubs, they’ve fulfilled internships, and they’ve connected to the beauty and recreational opportunities in Northern Colorado.

WE INVITE YOU TO SEE YOURSELF IN THIS INSPIRING COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS!
Keiann Alsaggaf

Hometown: Windsor, Colo.
Major: Neuroscience

Her mother has lived for years with multiple sclerosis, a progressive disease of the central nervous system, inspiring her interest in brain science and becoming a neurologist.

Activities and accomplishments:

• Has worked for several years at an urgent-care clinic, gaining an up-close look at medical care and its delivery
• Attends MS Society fund-raisers and presentations that focus on research and medical advancements
• Has especially enjoyed psychology coursework and the Neurosciences Seminar Series, which presents weekly guest speakers who delve into current research topics

“Growing up, I would always tell my mom, ‘I’m going to be your brain doctor one day.’ It feels really good to actually be pursuing my plan.”
“Our professors are so supportive – it’s one of the best things that has happened to me in college.”

Othman Alkubaisi

Hometown: Dammam, Saudi Arabia
Major: Environmental Health

He survived a car crash as a teenager; then, with newfound courage, he pursued education in the United States and found a CSU major fulfilling his interests in industrial hygiene and public health.

Activities and accomplishments:

- Earned a highly competitive scholarship from Saudi Aramco, the world’s top exporter of crude oil and natural gas liquids; will work for Aramco after graduation
- Created an app for people studying to be credentialed as Registered Environmental Health Specialists
- Internship with Jacobs Engineering Group, Pasadena, Calif.
Jada Boyd

Hometown: Denver, Colo
Major: Biomedical Sciences

Inspired by her gravely ill brother, she’s researching cancer and working toward a career as a physician.

Activities and accomplishments:

- Research in a lab focusing on chromosome biology and mutations
- Cancer Research Summer Fellowship, University of Colorado Cancer Center
- Outstanding presentation in cancer biology, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students; she was the only Colorado student to be honored at the national meeting
- Active in Premedica Club
- Hobbies include playing piano, dancing and reading

“My parents taught me that by helping one person, you can help a lot of people. That’s what I’m most looking forward to about being a physician.”
Meagan Chriswell

Hometown: Longmont, Colo.
Major: Biomedical Sciences

She’s a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and wants to reduce health disparities through research and medicine focused on parasitic infectious disease.

Activities and accomplishments:

• Parasite research in a lab that studies diseases infecting multiple species
• Highest honors for poster presentation, “Identification of Cryptosporidium species in Colorado animals,” Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase
• Plays piano and harp for residents at assisted living centers
• President, Biomedical Student Association; treasurer, Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science
• Daniels Fund Scholar; intern with the Undergraduate Pre-Health Program at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus; student ambassador for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

“I feel like my classmates and I are becoming scientists who will help each other out in the long run.”
Jasmine Donkoh

Hometown: Aurora, Colo.
Major: Microbiology

With parents from Ghana, Africa, she grew up wanting to solve global health problems; work in a CSU lab that investigates mosquito-borne disease launched her toward a research career.

Activities and accomplishments:

• Selected for a post-baccalaureate research training program with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases – Laboratory of Malaria and Vector Research

• Recognized for an outstanding student research abstract during Microbe 2016, an annual meeting of the American Society of Microbiology

• Overall winner of CSU’s 2016 Multicultural Undergraduate Research, Art, and Leadership Symposium for project titled, “Mosquitocidal Properties of IgG Targeting the Voltage Gated Sodium Channel in Malaria Vector Anopheles gambiae”

• Highest honors for research poster presentation at CSU’s 2016 Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase

• Undergraduate research in the CSU Arthropod-Borne and Infectious Diseases Laboratories

• Recipient of American Society for Microbiology Undergraduate Research Fellowship

“I feel really lucky and blessed. I came to CSU and found something I’m passionate about and fell in love with mosquito biology and malaria vaccine research. This is the coolest thing I’ve ever done.”
Joshua Ferreri

Hometown: Fort Collins, Colo.
Major: Environmental Health

Fascination with preventive medicine and the human body’s response to environmental factors led to research in epidemiology and plans for medical school.

Activities and accomplishments:

• Traveled to China to study the impacts of a high-pollution episode in Beijing in 2013
• Research in a laboratory that studies health effects associated with severe environmental events
• Has volunteered since freshman year in CSU’s Human Performance Clinical/Research Laboratory
• Student ambassador for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
• Enjoys rock climbing, camping, yoga, and snowboarding

“Be bold in your time at CSU, and reach out to other students and faculty. You would be surprised by what doors can open through a simple question or interaction.”
Mackenzie Isbell

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Major: Biomedical Sciences

She’s working as emergency room volunteer and hopes to provide empowering medical care to American women in poverty.

Activities and accomplishments:

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Emergency room volunteer, Medical Center of the Rockies, Loveland, Colo.
- Coordinator of a summer camp for military children
- Treasurer, Biomedical Student Association

“I’ve never met a group of people who are so driven and so passionate. Seeing other people be miraculous makes you want to be miraculous, too.”
Caitlin Lozano

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Major: Microbiology

Coming from a military family, she wanted to join the U.S. Army – and she charted a special path after combining her interests in science and national service.

Activities and accomplishments:

- No. 2 ROTC cadet in the nation based on GPA, fitness and leadership skills
- Multiple leadership roles, including cadet battalion commander, with Colorado State University ROTC, the Ram Battalion
- Research since freshman year in a laboratory studying feline infectious diseases caused by viral transmission; contributed to discovery of three new feline herpesviruses and helped author published research papers about the viruses
- Acceptance to New York Medical School, with plans to enter U.S. Army Medical Corps as a physician and commissioned officer

“I want to be a physician and more specifically an Army physician, serving those who are willing to give the ultimate sacrifice.”
Jessica Nunez

**Hometown:** Hendersonville, N.C.  
**Major:** Environmental Health

While working as a veterinary technician, she has learned about many diseases affecting animals and people — and now is pursuing a career in epidemiology to track diseases through populations.

**Activities and accomplishments:**

- Works at CSU’s James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital as a veterinary technician, also referred to as a veterinary nurse; also works as an anesthesia, emergency, surgical and internal medicine nurse at two private veterinary hospitals in northern Colorado
- Leads laboratory lessons for students in CSU’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program
- Student ambassador for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Enjoys playing soccer, hiking, fishing, camping, and rock climbing

“The best thing you can do is to be as involved as possible. Each opportunity will propel you and widen your horizons and mind.”
Avery Olson

Hometown: Rapid City, S.D.
Major: Biomedical Sciences

She and her father established a mobile medical clinic in Africa, sparking her interest in medicine and maternal health.

Activities and accomplishments:

- Co-founder and volunteer, Care for Zumbo, a mobile medical clinic in Zumbo, Mozambique, in Africa
- Has taught human anatomy to Fort Collins K-12 students as part of a human gross anatomy outreach project through the Department of Biomedical Sciences
- An avid angler, with a part-time job at St. Peter’s Fly Shop in Fort Collins
- Studied abroad in New Zealand
- Active in Premedica, Biomedical Student Association, and College Council

“Don’t be afraid to explore your interests at CSU. Take random classes, join off-beat clubs, experience the world, and enjoy the journey.”
“My research experience at CSU has been great. It excites me to work on problems that we haven’t yet solved.”

**Gustavo Ontiveros**

**Hometown:** Brighton, Colo.  
**Major:** Microbiology

Born in Mexico and raised on a Colorado farm, he is intrigued by the problem-solving nature of research and foresees a career working to understand basic immune-system functions.

**Activities and accomplishments:**

- Work in a research laboratory that quantifies and investigates functions of messenger RNA and its role in disease development and recovery
- Work in a research laboratory that develops protocols for testing tuberculosis vaccines
- Captivated by coursework in virology and immunology
- In his off time: Plays electric guitar with friends
- Works on a horse farm on weekends
Yunus Ozekin

**Hometown:** Aurora, Colo.  
**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

During high school, he attended a special course in human gross anatomy and was immediately fascinated by the human body and medicine.

**Activities and accomplishments:**

- Active in student government as a senator, deputy director of outreach, and member of the Student Fee Review Board, Associated Students of Colorado State University
- Undergraduate teaching assistant for a genetics laboratory and cell biology laboratory
- Marshall for Theta Chi fraternity and a member of Order of Omega, a leadership honor society
- Active in Biomedical Student Association, University Honors Program, College Council, and as a student ambassador for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Conducts research in a laboratory studying infectious disease
- Enjoys painting and camping

“Live a life of balance. You are here for an education, but don’t forget to make some memories along the way!”
Fluency in Spanish and English sparked his curiosity about the effects of bilingualism on brain function – and his interest in a research career.

Activities and accomplishments:
• Born and lived as a child in Mexico City, Mexico
• Intern in the CSU Brainwaves Research Laboratory
• Earned College Honors for poster presentation, “Basic Word Processing and Recognition in Bilingual and Monolingual Individuals,” Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase

“I’m really grateful to have gotten involved in research as a freshman. It’s such a great experience – you learn from it, you grow from it, and it’s a team effort.”
Major in Biomedical Sciences
Department of Biomedical Sciences

In this program, you’ll learn how core biological sciences are integrated and applied to human and animal health and disease. Your studies will focus on biological structure and function at the molecular, cellular, and systemic levels. You’ll complete upper-level coursework in human or animal gross anatomy, neuroanatomy, physiology and pathophysiology, coupled with electives specific to your interests and goals.

Learn more!
Phone: (970) 491-6408
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College tours: kristen.p.brown@colostate.edu
General info: cvmbs@colostate.edu

Major in Environmental Health
Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences

This major will prepare you for the branch of public health that studies how biological, chemical, and physical factors impact human health and disease. We study these factors in natural and built environments. Your training will help you prevent injury and disease by managing environmental hazards and promoting healthier air, water, soil, homes, workplaces, and communities.

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**Major in Microbiology**  
Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology

In this program, you’ll be immersed in the branch of biology that examines the structure and function of microorganisms and their influence on health and disease. These organisms – often too small to be seen with the naked eye – include bacteria, fungi, prions, protozoa, and viruses that impact human and animal health, and the health of entire populations.

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Cassidy Hagan, Microbiology  
Pictured in the laboratory where she helps conduct tuberculosis research

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**Major in Neuroscience**  
Molecular and Cellular Integrative Neuroscience Program

This major will guide you in study of the nervous system – how it develops, how it is structured, and how it controls our senses, perceptions, thoughts, and behaviors in both normal and disease states.

The field comprises several scientific disciplines. For this reason, the major is part of a special academic unit jointly sponsored by the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

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Nathan Krumland, Neuroscience  
Pictured studying in the Behavioral Sciences Building
GET IN TOUCH!

Our Student Success Center is a central location providing students in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences with support services, advising, and a career counselor – all in one place.

SUCCESS CENTER ADDRESS
1508 Center Ave., Suite 250
in parking garage offices at Prospect Road and Center Avenue

PHONE
(970) 491-6408

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