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## Welcome to the Animal Studies Program at ECU

Welcome to the Animal Studies major at Eastern Kentucky University. Ours is the first degree program of its kind in the world. The program is administered by the Department of Psychology but includes faculty and classes from a range of disciplines including biology, anthropology, sociology, law, agriculture, and psychology. You will learn about animals and their relationship with humans from diverse perspectives.

Liberal arts degrees, like Animal Studies, are valued by employers in a variety of job settings. The specific careers available to you upon graduation will depend on your interests. Although many of the courses in the major are required of all students, many others will be chosen by you, depending on your area of concentration. Your faculty advisor will work with you to customize your educational experience so that you can focus on specialized areas for particular jobs that you want to target. The Animal Studies major is also great preparation for graduate studies or professional schools.

You are about to embark on an exciting and fulfilling educational experience. My colleagues and I look forward to working with you. I strongly encourage you to contact Dr. Robert Mitchell, the coordinator of the Animal Studies program and faculty advisor for all Animal Studies majors. Make an appointment to meet with him to discuss your specific interests and plans. He can be reached by email ([robert.mitchell@eku.edu](mailto:robert.mitchell@eku.edu)) or phone (859-622-3122). His office is located in the Cammack Building (room 114).

Again, welcome. Please feel free to drop by my office if you have any questions or if you just want to say hello.

Dr. Robert Brubaker  
Chair, Department of Psychology  
Cammack 127  
622-1105  
[robert.brubaker@eku.edu](mailto:robert.brubaker@eku.edu)

P.S. Be sure to visit the Animal Studies website, [www.psychology.eku.edu/animal-studies-major](http://www.psychology.eku.edu/animal-studies-major), follow us on Twitter, and join us on Facebook.

## What is Animal Studies?

Animal Studies (ANS) is an interdisciplinary major that concentrates on nonhuman animals, their interactions and relationships with people, and the mutual influences humans and nonhuman animals have on each other's existence, evolution, and history. Students in Animal Studies receive training in sciences, humanities, and applied fields. Within their cross-disciplinary training, students will choose to emphasize at least one of these areas of study. Graduates of the program will gain knowledge of and be able to evaluate ideas about nonhuman animals, humans, and their mutual influences informatively from diverse perspectives. Upon completion of the ANS degree, graduates will be able to (1) analyze contexts and events concerning animals knowledgeably and from diverse points of view; (2) elucidate the motives and consequences for diverse human-animal interactions; (3) evaluate the impacts of human uses of and attitudes toward animals on individuals and communities, and on evolution and history; (4) integrate cross-disciplinary ideas into an awareness of divergent perspectives on animals and humans; and (5) use skills and expertise in understanding animals and humans to obtain employment.

At the end of this Handbook, you will find the original justification for creating an Animal Studies major at ECU. I hope you will enjoy reading this justification, as well as the rest of the handbook. I look forward to working with you to get to where you want to be with animals.

Best wishes,  
Robert W. Mitchell, Ph.D.  
Coordinator of the Animal Studies Program  
114 Cammack  
859-622-3122  
[robert.mitchell@ecu.edu](mailto:robert.mitchell@ecu.edu)

## Goals for Undergraduates

The Animal Studies Program, administered within the Psychology Department, provides students with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Studies. The mission of the Department of Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University is to empower students through their study to lead more satisfying, personal, professional, and intellectual lives. The Animal Studies Program fits nicely within this mission, but its focus is on having students learn about animals by themselves and in relation to humans, from diverse perspectives. The Animal Studies faculty has adopted the following student learning outcomes for Animal Studies majors. We are committed to helping students achieve these objectives by the time they graduate with a degree in Animal Studies from ECU.

### **Goal #1: Theory and Content about Animal Studies**

*Students will show breadth and depth in their understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in the human relationship with animals, allowing them to elucidate the motives and consequences for diverse animal-human interactions.*

### **Goal #2: Methods in Animal Studies**

*Students will use critical and creative thinking and skeptical inquiry when critiquing and applying ideas and theories about human and nonhuman animals and their interaction.*

### **Goal #3: Critical and Creative Thinking**

*Students will recognize diverse perspectives, respect and use critical and creative thinking, engage in skeptical inquiry, and use knowledge gained about animals and people when analyzing contexts and events about animals or animals and people.*

### **Goal #4: Application of Animal Studies**

*Students will understand and be able to evaluate impacts of human uses of and attitudes toward animals on individuals and communities throughout evolution and history.*

### **Goal #5: Values and Social Justice in Animal Studies**

*Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of Animal Studies, and will apply this knowledge to better animals' and people's lives.*

### **Goal #6: Communication**

*Students will be able to integrate cross-disciplinary ideas into an awareness of divergent perspectives on animals and humans and communicate effectively this awareness.*

### **Goal #7: Career Planning and Development**

*Students will use skills and expertise in understanding animals and humans to obtain*

*employment.*

## Opportunities for Animal Studies Students at ECU

### Get to know the faculty.

1. Work with faculty mentors to pursue specialized topics.
2. Faculty have an open-door policy and welcome the opportunity to talk with students. Feel free to discuss issues with any member of the faculty.
3. Develop a good working relationship with your advisor, who can help you choose classes and make important career decisions.

### Gain real world work experience, learn new skills, enhance your resume, make important contacts, and enhance your graduate school application.

4. Enroll in PSY 349 (Co-op). See Dr. Botts

### Gain research experience.

5. Collaborate with faculty on research projects (informally or by registering for PSY 402).
6. Present your work at professional conferences.
7. Co-author publications with faculty.

### Become involved in the Animal Studies community beyond the classroom.

8. Join the Animal Studies Club (see Dr. Makecha).
9. Attend lectures. Look for announcements around the Cammack Building and elsewhere on campus.
10. Participate in professional development activities. The Psychology Department financially assists students who travel to professional conferences.

### Learn how to make important decisions about your future.

11. Discuss your future with your advisor and other faculty members. Take advantage of your advisor's expertise and experience.

12. Explore different career directions by enrolling in co-op (PSY 349). Take advantage of opportunities afforded by a flexible curriculum to pursue a second major or minor.

Receive financial support and recognition for your accomplishments.

13. Apply for student research support money (see Dr. Brubaker for details)

## Animal Studies Affiliated Faculty Directory

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**Adjunct Online Faculty:**

Gala Argent, Ph.D.  
 Julia Schlosser, MFA

**Requirements for the Animal Studies Major**

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- General Education (including BIO 112, ANT 120, ANT 201).....36 hours
- Student Success Seminar (*GSD 101; waived for transfers with 30+ hrs.*).....3 hours
- Wellness..... 3 hours
- Writing Intensive Course (*Hrs. incorporated into Major/Supporting/Gen Ed/Free Electives category*)
- Upper division courses (*42 hrs. distributed throughout Major/Supporting/Gen Ed/Free Electives categories*)
- ACCT – Animal Studies majors will fulfill ACCT with ANS 400 or some other relevant capstone course. (*Credit hours are incorporated into program requirements below.*)

**Total Hours University Graduation Requirements .....42 hours**

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

*A minimum grade of “C” is required in all courses counted toward the major.*

**Core Courses..... 43 hours**

a) ANS 200 and b) Courses from the following groups:

1. Arts & Humanities: ANS 320, ANT 120, PHI 390; SOC 300; ANS 310, 497, or three hours of a relevant arts or humanities course (**12 hours**)
2. Science: ANT 201; ANT 306 OR 371; BIO 112; BIO 319; BIO 316 or 550; PSY 333 (**14 hours**)
3. Application: AGR 125; ANT 370; LGS 306 or WLD 380; three hours of a relevant applied learning (co-op) or study abroad course (**12 hours**)
4. Capstone: ANS 400 or other relevant thesis option.
5. Electives: an additional 9-11 hours in relevant courses, as approved by student’s advisor or department head.

**Free Electives.....13-17 hours**

**TOTAL HOURS TO COMPLETE DEGREE.....120 hours**

**Important Note for Transfer Students and Students who have changed their major:**  
 You should allow at least four semesters to complete the required courses.

## **Critical Facts about Course Sequencing**

There is a particular order in which some Animal Studies and supporting courses must be taken. Suggested timing for these courses is:

### **Freshmen (0-30 hours)**

AGR 125; ANS 200; ANS 320; ANT 120; ANT 201; BIO 112; SOC 300

### **Sophomore (30-60 hours)**

ANT 306 or 371 (AND/OR ANT 370); BIO 319; BIO 316 or 550; PHI 381; PSY 333

### **Junior (60-90 hours)**

ANS 310 or 497; ANS 349 (or other co-op or study abroad); ANT 370 (AND/OR ANT 306 or 371); LGS 306 or WLD 380; Advisor Approved Electives

### **Senior (90-120 hours)**

Advisor Approved Electives; ANS 400 or other relevant research option.

### **Additional issues:**

AGR 125 is a pre-requisite for higher-level AGR courses

ANS 200 is a pre-requisite for higher-level ANS courses

ANT 120 and 201 are pre-requisites for higher-level ANT courses

BIO 112 is a pre-requisite for higher-level BIO courses

PSY 333 requires instructor approval, as its pre-requisite is PSY 200 (which you are not required to take)

### **Information about Co-op**

A job counselor is available to help students find appropriate placements. Students can earn 1 college credit for every 80 hours of work. Students can register for 1—8 hours of credit per semester and up to 16 total credits while at ECU. The first 3 credits are applied toward the Animal Studies degree; additional credits may count toward restricted (advisor approved) electives.

### **Transfer students and students changing their major:**

The Animal Studies major typically requires a minimum of 4 semesters to complete.

## Succeeding in the Animal Studies Major

### Administrative Issues

**1. Know your undergraduate catalog.** The catalog describes University policies, explains your General Education requirements, provides information about student services and financial aid, lists the requirements for the major, and includes all course descriptions. The catalog is available on the ECU website: <http://catalogs.ecu.edu>. Note that General Education requirements are described in Undergraduate Catalog.

**2. Check out the ECU Colonel's Compass** for important dates/deadlines at [www.ecu.edu/students](http://www.ecu.edu/students).

**3. Deadlines to watch for:**

- a. **Application for Graduation**: December graduates - apply before the end of the preceding April. May and August graduates: apply by the end of the preceding October.
- c. **Registration**: Check on the on-line schedule book for dates when you can register each semester.

**3. Make sure the university has your correct address (email and regular mail)**

**Your ECU email address is the official email address for ECU students. The university and the faculty will send important information to your official student account. Be sure to check it often.**

## **Coursework**

**1. Study Time:** The university policy is that you should allow a minimum of 2 to 3 hours outside of class for homework and study purposes for each hour spent in class. Thus, for a 3-unit class, you need to allow for 6 to 9 hours outside class per week for studying. This means you will need to appropriately balance course load and outside responsibilities so that you have sufficient time for your classes. The purpose of the study time is for you to learn course material and to develop general thinking skills, and skills specific to your discipline.

**2. Be an active student:** Use active study practices, e.g., reading with a question in mind, self testing, and talking with classmates about course material. Also, ask questions in class and in your professor's office about course material and assignments. Satisfy your curiosity and clarify your confusions by talking with your professor.

**3. Authorship:** Your exams, papers and all other assignments must reflect your own work, unless you are explicitly directed otherwise by your instructor. Plagiarism (using someone else's work, whether lifting entire passages written by another or reframing sentences another has written) is prohibited.

## **Working and Going to School**

Many students find it necessary to work and attend school. This is less than an ideal situation in terms of schoolwork, but it is a reality. Often students entering the university for the first time, either from high school or community college, underestimate the amount of time required to do well in their classes. As one progresses in the major, the workload per unit, the difficulty of the course material, and the number and complexity of assignments usually increase. It will then be necessary to reduce either work hours or course load. When work hours and course loads are too high, grades will suffer and stress will be excessive. Often these problems may become apparent when it is too late to drop a class. This means you should consider the work-school balance when registering for classes. You may have to make sacrifices either in terms of fewer units per semester or reducing your income. However, the benefits of doing so are substantial. If you allow sufficient time to study, use the library, and meet with faculty, you will get much more out of your courses and maximize the chances that your grades will reflect your true potential. You will also have more time to get involved in Animal Studies and university activities. The Animal Studies Program, the Psychology Department and ECU have a lot to offer; don't miss these opportunities because you are overloaded.

## Advising

You must see your advisor each semester before you can register. It is important to review your Degree Works report and discuss your long-term goals, progress in your courses and any problems you are having with your experience at ECU with your advisor. **Your advisor will give you your RAC number, which you need in order to register.**

1. The calendar Colonel's Compass ([www.ecu.edu/students](http://www.ecu.edu/students)) gives the dates when the official Advising Periods begin and end (typically around the end of October and March). During the Advising Period, professors will have sign-up sheets posted outside their office for you to schedule appointments. You may not register without having seen your advisor.
2. Get the most out of your advising appointments. **Before** meeting with your advisor:
  - a. Examine your Degree Works report, Schedule of Classes, and Course Descriptions in the Undergraduate Catalog;
  - b. Make a list of questions you have about scheduling classes;
  - c. Make a list of questions you have about long term goals and other matters.
3. **As questions and problems arise during the semester, see your advisor for help.**

## Get Involved

### Ways to get involved.

- a. Get involved in the Animal Studies Club. Join through [www.orgsync.com](http://www.orgsync.com)
- b. Get to know your classmates.
- c. Get to know your professors: talk to your professors about course material, the field they are teaching in Animal Studies, graduate degrees, ECU, jobs, their research, or their practice in their subject areas. ASK them questions.
- d. Get involved in a professor's research. You can do this in the course of completing PSY 402 (independent study), or you can simply get involved as a volunteer (occasionally paid opportunities are also available).
- e. Attend talks by colloquium speakers. Each semester the different departments and organizations host guest speakers relevant to Animal Studies who talk about their work.

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

### DEGREES IN ANIMAL STUDIES

**Bachelor of Science Degree (B.S.):** Undergraduate degree (4 years)

Besides the ECU, there are other colleges and universities with Animal Studies related degrees.

Carroll College in Helena, Montana has a Human-Animal Bond program with its own degree within the Psychology department; this is an applied program mostly using psychological techniques for working with animals. See <http://www.carroll.edu/academics/majors/hab/>. We are working to develop a program for ECU students to attend Carroll College for one or two semesters, and apply their credits to their Animal Studies degree.

**Masters Degree (M.A. or M.S.):** Graduate degree (B.S. plus 2 years)

Michigan State University has a graduate specialization in Animal Studies.

<http://animalstudies.msu.edu>

Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan, has a Master of Science Program in Humane that “prepares leaders capable of developing practical solutions to current challenges affecting the well-being of people, the environment and animals.”

<https://www.madonna.edu/academics/departments/sociology>

Students can also apply for Masters degrees in other areas, such as Biology, Psychology, History, etc., relevant to their career goals.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.):** Graduate degree (B.S. plus 4+ years\*; or Masters degree plus 2—4 years\*, depending on the school).

There are currently no Ph.D. programs in Animal Studies per se, so you would need to study in Comparative Psychology, Agriculture, Biology, Conservation, or some related field if you wish to study animals directly. However, there are many degree programs in History, Literature, Philosophy, and other Humanities where students can study animals in relation to these fields. Note also that there are programs in the UK and Australia, and perhaps continental Europe, where students can pursue advanced degrees related to Animal Studies. Contact your advisor for help.

\*Note: Although Doctoral degrees can be completed in 4 years, most students take 5-6 years (or more). There is typically 3 years of course work and 1+ years to complete the dissertation.

## SAMPLE CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR B.S. DEGREE IN ANIMAL STUDIES

	FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SEMESTER
YEAR 1	GSD 101                    3 HRS ANS 200                    3 HRS GEN ED                      6 HRS GEN ED VB (ANT 201) 3 HRS  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15 HRS</b></p>	ANS 320                    3 HRS GEN ED                      3 HRS GEN ED                      6 HRS GEN ED IVA (BIO 112) 4 HRS  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>16 HRS</b></p>
YEAR 2	BIO 319                      4 HRS PHI 390                      3 HRS GEN ED VII(NS) (ANT 120) 3 HRS GEN ED                      6 HRS  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>16 HRS</b></p>	ANS 310 or 497            3 HRS GEN ED                      6 HRS ANT 370                      3 HRS Free Elective              3 HRS  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15 HRS</b></p>
YEAR 3	AGR 125                      3 HRS GEN ED                      6 HRS SOC 300                      3 HRS BIO 316 or 550            3 HRS  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15 HRS</b></p>	GEN ED                      6 HRS LGS 306 or WLD 380      3 HRS ANT 306 or 371            3 HRS PSY 333                      3 HRS  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15 HRS</b></p>
YEAR 4	GEN ED                      6 HRS ANS 349*                    3 HRS Restricted Electives      3 HRS Free Electives              3 HRS  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15 HRS</b></p> <p>*Or students can do a relevant study abroad, probably during summer.</p>	Free Electives              7 HRS Restricted Electives      3 HRS ANS 400                      3 HRS  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>13 HRS</b></p>

**NOTE:** This is intended to be a sample only. All courses are 3 credit-hours unless otherwise indicated.

**ELECTIVES:** Electives can include additional hours of animal-related courses.

**CAPSTONE:** Students can use ANS 400 Senior Seminar or another relevant capstone course to fulfill the Capstone requirement.



## **CAREER POSSIBILITIES**

### **Examples of Jobs for Students with a B.S. in Animal Studies**

#### **Research**

Animal Behaviorist  
Research Assistant  
Animal Resource Technician  
Aquatic Scientist  
Environmental Scientist

#### **Education**

Teacher  
Researcher  
Research Assistant  
Animal Behaviorist

#### **Entertainment**

Curator  
Researcher  
Research Assistant  
Animal Trainer  
Animal Caretakers  
Wildlife/Habitat Restoration Manager  
Stewardship

#### **Government**

Researcher  
Animal Behaviorist  
Animal Control Officer  
Restoration Manager  
Resource Conservation  
Environmental Specialist  
Wildlife Instructor

#### **Environmental**

Wildlife/Habitat Restoration Manager  
Stewardship Guide

### **Courses for Specific Career Interests**

The Animal Studies degree was created to provide diverse career options for students who are engaged by animals. When the degree was initially proposed, students expressed interest in a variety of occupations, including the unexpected—photographer, journalist, artist, pet store owner, and fiction writer—as well as the predicted animal rehabilitation and rescue worker, zoo employee, animal behavior researcher, and animal-assisted therapist. Each career path requires a different set of electives for majors (and some may require more extensive training beyond the undergraduate degree), so you need to talk to your advisor right away about what you wish to do in relation to the major when you graduate. You and your advisor can examine courses available at ECU and potentially elsewhere so that you can be competitive when you graduate. We already have graduates from the Animal Studies program working in zoos, rescue centers, and in graduate programs (one working with Dr. Temple Grandin). The students were able to achieve their dreams because they worked with our faculty to do so. Achieving your dream job requires not just knowledge, but also networking, and faculty who value you will use their networking to assist you. But you must also be pro-active and use the web to discover opportunities for co-op and volunteer work to get you on your career path.

### **Information for Students Double Majoring in ANS and Another Discipline**

You may elect to combine your major in Animal Studies with a second major. The discipline you choose for the second major will depend on your interests and your plans for the future. For example, if you're interested in animal behavior, you may choose to double major in ANS and Psychology. (See next page for courses you'd have to take if you wished to double major in ANS and PSY.) If you're interested in a career that involves writing about animals, you may choose to double major in ANS and Journalism. If you are considering a double major, talk to your advisor as soon as possible. Scheduling classes will require careful planning.

<b>Courses Required for Double Major in ANS &amp; PSY</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<u>Core Requirements: ANS 200; PSY 200, 250, 309, and 310</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Arts &amp; Humanities for ANS: ANS 320; PHI 381; SOC 300</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Choose one: ANS 310 or 497, or relevant arts &amp; humanities course</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Science for ANS: BIO 319; PSY 333</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Choose one: ANT 306 or 371</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Choose one: BIO 316 or 550</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Application for ANS: AGR 125; ANT 370</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Choose one: LGS 306 OR WLD 380</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Choose one: PSY 349 or relevant Study Abroad course</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Biological Bases of Behavior for PSY: Choose one: PSY 311 or 315</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Development for PSY: Choose one: PSY 312, 314, or 316</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Social/Personality for PSY: Choose one: PSY 300, 305, or 308</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Skills for PSY: Choose one: PSY 319, 405, 406, 490, or 590</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Electives for PSY:</u>	
<u>Choose one: Any 300-level or higher PSY course</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Choose one: Any 400-level or higher PSY course</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Capstone for ANS: ANS 400 or other relevant thesis option</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Capstone for PSY: PSY 400</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>General Education for ANS/PSY</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Standard General Education program, excluding Blocks IVA, IVB, VII(ns)</u>	
<u>Supporting Courses for ANS: ANT 120 and 201, and BIO 112</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>University Requirement for ANS/PSY: GSD 101</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>130</b>

## **Co-op**

### **Benefits of Co-op**

Working in a co-op position provides students with opportunities to explore various career directions, build skills for future academic or work goals, and enhance resume and application to graduate school. Additionally, most students are paid for their work in a co-op placement. However, volunteer work is often accepted, and hours from multiple work placements can be summed.

### **Eligibility for Co-op**

- GPA 2.0 or higher, ANS 200, and at least 3 other content courses toward the major
- Transfer students: at least 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at EKU

### **To Get Started**

See Dr. Botts, [theresa.botts@eku.edu](mailto:theresa.botts@eku.edu), Cammack 233, 622-2318

### **Sample Job Placements (*not a complete list*)**

- Intern at Cincinnati or Louisville Zoo
- Intern at Primate Rescue Center, Nicholasville, KY
- Volunteer at Animal Shelter
- Kentucky Equine Humane Center, Lexington, KY
- Tourguide at Salado Wildlife Education Center, Frankfort, KY
- Volunteer at Liberty Nature Center, Somerset, KY
- Work at a Pet Store or PetSmart
- Help the Campus Cats maintain feeding stations, etc.
- Look for jobs and internships on the web!

\*Always try to obtain employment (including any part-time and summer work) that is related to your career goals.

## **Research Opportunities at EKU**

PSY 402 Independent Work in Psychology (with a faculty supervisor)  
Volunteer to work with faculty member on research.

**Horses, Humans, and Health minor**

**The Department of Occupational Therapy offers an Animal Studies related Minor in Horses, Humans and Health**

This interdisciplinary minor offers students a chance to explore the horse-human-health connection through various professions and perspectives. Students interested in working in the equine industry may pair this minor with any major to develop their interests and career paths. An elective in human development offers students the ability to tailor their academic study to individual needs. A student may complete this minor by taking 18 hours (including prerequisites/corequisites) as indicated below.

Minor Requirements.....18 hours  
OTS 205, REC 210\*, AGR 250, OTS 479S, ANS 497\* (topic: horse), and one elective in human development from the following: CDF 235, CDF 342, CDF 441, HEA 285, OTS-421\*, PSY 280, SED 104.

\*Indicates the course may have prerequisites or corequisites.

**Students may declare the minor through ECU Direct.**

**Updated information at: <http://www.ot.ecu.edu/minor-horses-humans-and-health>**

**Please contact: Kathy Splinter-Watkins, MOT, OTR/L, HPCS, FAOTA  
859-622-6322  
[Kathy.Splinter-Watkins@ecu.edu](mailto:Kathy.Splinter-Watkins@ecu.edu)**

## PREPARING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

### General Information: What do Graduate Admissions Committees Look For?

GPA. At least 3.0, but usually much higher (*especially last 2 years of undergraduate degree*)  
GRE. General test for most programs; Subject test for most Doctoral program (*required scores vary by school*)

Letters of Recommendation. Typically 3 letters from faculty are required. Letters from work supervisors can be helpful but should be in addition to the 3 letters from faculty.

Job/Volunteer Experience. Experience in appropriate area will enhance your application. *Co-op is one way to get such experience.*

Research Experience. Do research with faculty person  
Conference Presentation. Presentation of research at conference will enhance your application.

### Four Year Plan for Getting into Graduate School

#### Freshman Year

1. Take courses to explore various career interests. Begin to narrow down your list of possible careers.
2. Join the Animal Studies Club.
3. Talk with faculty and other Animal Studies majors about interests.
4. Keep your textbooks in your animal-related courses. They will be useful in other courses later.
6. Create an outline of the courses you plan to take for the remainder of your undergraduate career. Your advisor can help you with this plan.

#### Sophomore through Junior Years

1. Decide on 2—3 career options and focus your course work on these choices.
2. Begin Co-op experiences (often summer between Sophomore and Junior years).
3. Develop and foster research relationship with a faculty person.

4. Consider a minor. It should be in a rigorous field and related to career direction.
5. Start a file. Keep notes of accomplishments for your future resume/vitae. *Include: papers on which you earned good grades, work/volunteer experiences, research experiences, activities in class that build job-related skills.*
6. Join a professional organization as a student affiliate (e.g., ISAZ, ABS, APS, SEPA).

### **End of Junior Year through beginning of Senior Year**

1. Seek out information on various graduate programs (APA Guide to Graduate Study).
2. Ask faculty for letters of recommendation (usually 3).
3. Study for the GRE. ENR 201 (Vocabulary Development) I and MAT 107 are good preparation for the GRE (*See information below*).

### **Summer between Junior and Senior Year**

1. Gather information and applications from prospective graduate programs. Learn about the faculty at the schools and what types of jobs their students are trained for. Call or e-mail Program Chairs for additional information about each program.
2. Decide to which schools you want to apply.
3. If you are considering a Doctoral program, contact a faculty person with whom you are interested in working. Consider visiting the school.
4. Continue to study for the GRE.
5. Talk to advisor or faculty mentor about presenting research at conference.
6. Take the GRE General test late in the summer.
7. Try to work with a faculty member on research in your desired field of study. Talk to your advisor.

### **Senior Year: FALL**

1. Present research at conference. You might present your research at the annual Undergraduate Presentation (UP) Showcase at ECU each April. (contact Dr. Jon Gore at [jonathan.gore@ecu.edu](mailto:jonathan.gore@ecu.edu)).

2. Create drafts of your vitae and personal statement. *Ask faculty for feedback.*
3. Check transcript for errors.
4. Apply for graduation by late October.
5. Create a packet of materials to give to faculty who have agreed to write letters of recommendation for you. Give to faculty by late November (or earlier).
6. Complete applications for graduate programs.
7. Give materials for letters of recommendations to faculty persons.
8. Send applications to graduate programs well before the deadline date. Check several weeks prior to each deadline to determine if your file is complete at each school. If not complete, remedy the problem and re-check until file is complete.

### **Information about the GRE (Graduate Record Exam)**

#### **General Information**

Most graduate programs require the GRE general test. Some Doctoral programs require the subject test (and the general test). Talk with your advisor about preparing for the GRE as early as possible (your Freshman year is not too soon).

#### **How to study for the GRE**

- A. Take courses as part of General Ed or electives. ENG 101, 102, + extra writing courses, MAT 107 or higher, PHI 100, ENR 201(Vocabulary Development).
- B. Buy study guides.
- C. Use on-line study guide (CD): available in most bookstores.
- D. Use on-line study guide on GRE website (*www.gre.org*).
- E. *Optional*: Pay for GRE prep courses offered on campus.

### **Research Opportunities at EKU**

PSY 402 Independent Work in Psychology (with a faculty supervisor)  
Volunteer to work with faculty member on research.

## **Undergraduate Courses for Animal Studies**

### **AGR 125 Principles of Animal Science**

Corequisite: AGR 126. Management and production of livestock enterprises; types, market classes, and grades of beef cattle, sheep and swine, and the breeds and products of dairy cattle.

### **ANS 200 Introduction to Animal Studies**

A survey of the field of animal studies, focusing on animals' lives and histories, and the human experience of animals as food, as objects of entertainment, spectacle and science, as companions, and as representations. Gen. Ed. VB, VC, or VII (SBS). [SB].

### **ANS 310 Animals in Literature**

Prerequisite: ANS 200(C) or ENG 102 or ENG 105(B) or HON 102, or instructor approval. A survey of the rhetorical and thematic use of animals in imaginative texts.

### **ANS 320 Animals in History**

Prerequisite: ANS 200(C) or instructor approval. A survey of the history of animals in European and American cultures, from prehistory to the modern age. Animals are examined as food, objects of entertainment and knowledge, companions, and representations.

### **ANS 349 Applied Learning in Animal Studies**

Prerequisites: ANS 200 (C), and BIO 112 (C), and ANT 120 (C) or departmental approval. Work in placements related to academic studies. A minimum of 80 hours employment required for each semester hour credit. Course may be repeated for up to 16 credits total. Graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

### **ANS 350 Animal Enrichment.**

Cross- listed as PSY 350. Prerequisite: ANS 200 or PSY 200. Covers the concept and practice of animal enrichment. Students will learn about the theoretical and applied aspects of enrichment and will acquire experience designing and implementing enrichment. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for PSY 350.

### **ANS 400 Senior Seminar: \_\_\_\_\_.**

Prerequisite: ANS 200(C) and 15 hours of courses required for the ANS major. The

examination of a topic in animal studies from the perspectives of application, science, and humanities. May be retaken once, provided the subject matter differs each time.

**ANS 497 Topics in Animal Studies: \_\_\_\_\_**

Prerequisite: ANS 200(C) and 9 hours of courses required for the ANS major, or instructor approval. The course examines a topic in animal studies in detail. May be retaken once, provided the subject matter differs each time.

**ANS 499 Senior Exit Course in Animal Studies**

Prerequisite: Senior standing and major in animal studies. Students will complete the Senior Exit Survey and the Senior Knowledge Exam in this course.

**ANT 120 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**

Explanation of culture and related concepts. Development of generalizations concerning social, economic, political, and ritual organization, based chiefly on comparative study of various traditional societies. Includes a brief survey of archeology and linguistics. Gen. Ed. VB, VC, or VII (SBS). [SB].

**ANT201 Introduction to Physical Anthropology**

General survey of the principal areas of physical anthropology, emphasizing contemporary human biological variation and including an appraisal of humankind's place within the biological realm and the role of genetics, osteology, and primatology in the study of humans. 2 Lec/2 Lab. Gen. Ed. VII (NS).

**ANT 306 Human Evolution**

Prerequisite: ANT 201. A detailed analysis of primate and human development emphasizing the fossil evidence of humankind's evolution.

**ANT 370 Primate Conservation**

Prerequisite: ANT 201. The local human and biological impact of conservation programs affecting primate communities throughout the world. Topics include forest fragmentation, historical perspectives on conservation, agroforestry, ecotourism, ethnography, and disease.

**ANT 371 Primate Ecology & Sociality**

Completion of ANT 201 is advised before taking ANT 371. Ecological relationships within primate communities. Students examine primate social structure, habitat use, diet, locomotion, seasonality, plant-primate interactions, and predator-prey relationships.

### **BIO 112 Principles of Biology**

The study of life and its processes: cellular structure and function; reproduction and development; genetics, evolution and ecological principles. A course designed for biology majors. 3 Lec/2 Lab. Gen. Ed. IVA. [NS].

### **BIO 319 General Zoology**

Prerequisite: BIO 112. Morphology, physiology, comparative anatomy, development, life history, evolution, and diversity of animals. 3 Lec/3 Lab.

### **BIO 316 Ecology**

Prerequisite: BIO 319. Basic concepts and principles as applied to the study of organisms or groups of organisms in their interrelations to each other and to their environments. 2 Lec/4 Lab.

### **BIO 550 Animal Behavior**

Prerequisite: BIO 112 and instructor permission. Advanced study of behavior with emphasis on inherited behavioral patterns in relation to the evolution and ecology of animals. 3 Lec/2 Lab.

### **GSD 101 Foundations of Learning**

A course to promote student success and lay the foundation for critical and creative thinking across the curriculum. Open to all first year students with fewer than 30 semester hours earned. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for ASO 100, BTO 100, EDO 100, GSO 100, HSO 100, or JSO 100.

### **GSO 100 Academic Orientation**

An orientation to university academic life and career planning and preparation. Topics include university policies and procedures, program requirements, career opportunities, and introductory study skills. Open to all students during their first two semesters of enrollment at EKU; beyond that open to students with fewer than 30 semester hours earned.

### **GSO 101 Academic Orientation**

An orientation to university academic life and career planning and preparation. Topics include

university policies and procedures, program requirements, career opportunities, and introductory study skills. Open to all students during their first two semesters of enrollment at ECU; beyond that open to students with fewer than 30 semester hours earned.

### **LGS 306 Animals and the Law**

The study of topics that relate to the status of animals under the law. The course focuses upon cases, legislation, and cultural values toward animals world-wide. Course does not count toward paralegal requirements.

### **PHI 381 Animal Ethics**

An examination of major theories of animal welfare and rights; consideration of issues involving the use of animals as food and other goods, animal experimentation, wildlife, endangered species, hunting and sport, pets, and zookeeping.

### **PSY 333 Comparative Psychology**

Prerequisites: PSY 200 or PSY 200W and PSY 250 or departmental approval. A survey of theory and research in the psychology of animals. Topics include history of scientific studies, learning, memory, representation, intelligence, knowledge, innovation, culture, communication, development, emotion, social skill, consciousness, and theory of mind.

### **PSY 349 Applied Learning in Psychology**

Prerequisite: 15 hours in PSY. Work in placements related to academic studies. A minimum of 80 hours employment required for each semester hour credit. Three hours may be applied toward the major, not applicable toward a minor. Graded Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory.

### **SOC 300 Sociology of Humans and Animals**

A survey of the sociology of animal-human interaction, focusing on the human-animal bond and conflict between human and animal worlds.

### **WLD 380 Wildlife Law & Law Enforcement**

Discussion of pertinent state and federal wildlife laws and how law enforcement impacts wildlife management.

**NOTE: Writing Intensive (W) versions of PSY courses are equivalent to their non-W counterparts for the purpose of satisfying major and prerequisite requirements.**

## Opportunities to Study Abroad

EKU students can participate in diverse study abroad opportunities, immersing themselves in foreign cultures and climates for course credit and personal growth. Programs last from two to five weeks to an entire semester in dozens of countries around the world (including China, France, Italy, Ecuador, Spain, Turkey, Australia, Brazil, and England). Courses covering a wide variety of topics, including animal-related topics, are available during the fall, spring, and summer sessions, and during the winter and spring breaks. The Animal Studies Program strongly encourages students to study abroad. Though we urge students to learn new languages, study abroad classes are taught in English and students are not required to speak a foreign language to participate (except in some advanced foreign language courses). A limited number of scholarships are available to qualified students.

Eastern is a member of the Kentucky Institute for Study Abroad and the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad. You can visit their websites for more information (<http://www.kiis.org> and <http://www.ccsa.cc/>). In addition, the Psychology Department periodically offers its own study abroad programs.

If you would like to learn more about these exciting opportunities, contact Drs. Radhika Makecha ([radhika.makecha@eku.edu](mailto:radhika.makecha@eku.edu)), Robert Mitchell ([robert.mitchell@eku.edu](mailto:robert.mitchell@eku.edu)), or Robert Brubaker ([robert.brubaker@eku.edu](mailto:robert.brubaker@eku.edu)), or contact the Study Abroad Office at EKU.

For information on scholarships for study abroad programs contact Dr. Brubaker.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How can I get an override to register for a class that is closed or one for which I lack the prerequisites?**

Students can obtain an override by going to the PSY departments website and select override request form, link here [http://class.eku.edu/override-request-form#\\_ga=2.48430310.1195984226.1501517565-807293055.1498228298](http://class.eku.edu/override-request-form#_ga=2.48430310.1195984226.1501517565-807293055.1498228298) You will need permission from the course instructor first.

### **How do I register for an independent study?**

PSY 402 (Independent Work in Psychology) is where you work with a faculty person, usually collaborating on a research project. However, if a faculty person asks you to assist with his/her research project, tutor for a class or work as a teaching assistant for a class, you may receive credit in PSY 403 (Practicum in Psychology). In any case, you must first discuss the project with the faculty person with whom you will be working. After the faculty person completes the necessary paperwork the Psychology Department will give you a CRN so that you can register for the course.

### **How do I add a class after the add/drop deadline has passed?**

You are strongly discouraged from adding a course after the last add date. However, if special circumstances warrant a late add, you must first get permission to add the course from the instructor. The instructor will complete the necessary paperwork, which you must have signed by the instructor, the chair of the Department, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Getting the appropriate signatures does NOT register you for the course. After the Dean signs the paperwork, YOU must register for the course.

### **Who do I talk to if I'm interested in a co-op placement? Where does co-op fit into the major requirements?**

First, see Dr. Botts to discuss your interest in Co-op (ANS 349). Co-op can fulfill a requirement for your Animal Studies degree (as an elective) and can be applied toward upper-division free electives. If you plan to attend graduate school, please note that research and co-op may be good options for you. You should discuss your options with your advisor.

### **How do I resolve a problem involving one of my instructors?**

Start by discussing the problem with the instructor. If that doesn't resolve the matter, talk with your advisor or with the department chair (Dr. Brubaker). They will advise you about further steps to take.

### **How do I appeal a grade in a course?**

From the ECU University Handbook for Students (available online at [www.ecu.edu/students/](http://www.ecu.edu/students/)): "If a student believes that the final grade assigned in a course is unjustified, that student should consult the instructor, seeking a satisfactory explanation. If, after doing so, the student still feels that the grade is unjustified, the student may appeal the grade, in writing, to the department chair within 30 days after the beginning of the next semester (exclusive of summer sessions)."

### **Should I declare a second major? A minor? How?**

A second major and/or minor may be useful if it is related to your future goals. Your advisor can help you make this decision. To add or change a major or minor, go to the ECU home page, and use the quick links to get to the Advising Department, or go to [www.advising.ecu.edu/changemajor](http://www.advising.ecu.edu/changemajor).

### **What's the best way to get in touch with a faculty member?**

Faculty usually post a schedule of office hours outside their office doors. Each faculty member has a mailbox in their department office. Faculty phone numbers and email addresses are listed on pp. 7-9 in this handbook.

### **What's the best way to get in touch with part-time faculty members**

Part-time faculty usually keep limited office hours and are often not on campus during the day. They do have mailboxes in their department office and email accounts. If it is an emergency, the department administrative assistant may be able to contact the instructor by phone.

### **May students use the department photocopier (under what circumstances)?**

The easiest photocopier for student use is in the Library.

### **Is there a telephone in Cammack for students to use.**

There is a telephone in the Psychology Department office (Cammack 127) available during regular office hours for use by students in emergency situations. There is no phone available after hours.

### **How do I register to take the GRE?**

*For information on registering to take the GRE, visit [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org). The GRE has undergone extensive revision in the content, scoring and administration. Check their website as soon as possible.*

### **Where can I get help with making decisions about, and preparing for, my future?**

Career Services and your advisor are great resources.

### **How do I find out if courses from another school will transfer to EKU?**

To ensure that you receive EKU credit for courses taken elsewhere: (a) request that a copy of your transcript from the other school be sent to the EKU Records Office (SSB CPO 58). The transcript must be official and must show a final grade; (b) make an appointment with the Transfer Coordinator to discuss your transfer courses. The Transfer Coordinator is Scott Summers (Advising Office: SSB 129; 622-2276); (c) review your DegreeWorks Report with your advisor to make sure transfer courses have been applied to your degree.

### **When should I apply for graduate school? How do I apply?**

Each school has its own deadline for receiving applications to a graduate program (typically, January - March). You should send your application several weeks before the deadline, and check with each school to ensure your materials have been received. For more information about applying to graduate school see the "Preparing for the Future" section of this handbook. Also, PSY 258 will help you prepare the appropriate materials for applications to graduate programs.

### **Some important contact information:**

***To get credit for courses taken at another school:***

<http://ekuonline.eku.edu/eku-online-transferring-credit>

### **Can I get my RAC number from the department secretary or the department chair?**

**No. Your advisor is the only person who can give you your RAC number.** This policy is designed to ensure that before you register you understand where you are with respect to completion of university and major requirements. It is also important that you discuss other matters with your advisor such as your success in your courses and your long-term goals.

### **How do I make an appointment to see an instructor or my advisor?**

Emailing your advisor is the best way to set up an appointment. If you do not hear from him or her within 2 days, email again. Advisors received about 200 emails a day, so it is easy for you to get lost in the myriad emails received. In addition, all faculty members (including the department chair) have a list of office hours posted outside their office door.

**To apply for graduation:** the Academic Specialist: Dean's Office. Roark 108. 622-1398.  
[Megan.estes@eku.edu](mailto:Megan.estes@eku.edu)

**To register for Co-op:** Dr. Theresa Botts, Cammack 233. 622-2318. [theresa.botts@eku.edu](mailto:theresa.botts@eku.edu)

**Information about Animal Studies Club:** Dr. Makecha, Cammack 223. 622-7968.  
[radhika.makecha@eku.edu](mailto:radhika.makecha@eku.edu)

**Help with job hunting, preparing resumes, and preparing for interviews:** Career Services, SSB 465. 622-8649.

**Justification for Animal Studies major at ECU** (Original Proposal for Animal Studies major, 9/9/09)

*Background*

Nonhuman animals are an omnipresent, yet often unattended to, part of human existence. We care for, hunt, slaughter, eat, travel miles to see, pet, watch, pass laws about, love, fear, and think about a variety of animals. We play with our dogs and cats, and eat someone else's cows and chickens. We learn many lessons in childhood about animals, and our first stories are replete with animals and their sometimes humanized lives. As adults we still use animals as metaphors and tropes (e.g., "lamb of God") to think about others, our selves, and human activities. (Think of Orwell's *Animal Farm*, or ECU President Whitlock's 2009 "state of the university" address to the faculty—e.g., "In any bacon and egg breakfast, the chicken is involved but the pig is committed.") We compare or contrast humans and animals linguistically to vilify or elevate humans. Humans have been viewed as animals, and animals as human, with the precise point of differentiation between the two at times obscure, at other times perfectly clear. (When the terribly disfigured "Elephant Man" in the David Lynch movie of the same name is finally cornered after being chased through the streets by a mass of people horrified by his appearance, he cries "I am not an animal. I am a human being.") How we act toward animals directly influences our lives and society: the introduction of slaughterhouses into an area dramatically increases crime, and people who commit even one act of animal abuse are more likely to commit other criminal offenses than matched individuals who don't abuse animals. Legislators and citizens institute laws against the inhumane treatment of animals and the extinction of species, and the American Humane Society celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2007. Veterinarians-in-training are being told to take a course in literature as part of their professional development to instill empathy toward animals and clients. Books of photographs of animals are hot commodities in bookshops. Animals are and have always been objects of human fascination and intrinsic to human existence: humans would not have evolved beyond a subsistence stage of survival without the domestication of animals, and major conquests of land in history would have been impossible without the horse. Animals are essential to us. We would not be who, what, and where we are today without them.<sup>1</sup>

Given this background, it is not surprising that Animal Studies is a growing field in academia. It has grown from several directions. Biologists have always studied animals from an objective perspective, but Darwin's theory of evolution by means of natural selection forced a return to the psychological and anthropological study of animals, often as a way to understand the evolution of the human mind. Ethologists of the early 20th century pursued the study of animals in their natural state, including humans in their purview. The scientific study of the human relationship with animals came into focus from anthropology, psychology, ethology, sociobiology, environmentalism, and health medicine, and the journal *Anthrozoös* was instituted in 1987 to study this field; *Society & Animals* followed in 1993. Both journals have published broadly, including articles from sciences and humanities (though tending to focus more on social science). The ethical and moral dimensions of the human treatment of animals have also influenced the field, beginning with Peter Singer's 1975 *Animal liberation*, in which a utilitarian position on the use and treatment of animals is proposed. Singer's book, as well as primate researchers' discussions of apes having a "theory of mind," re-invigorated a philosophical interest in animal mind that had largely disappeared following Aristotle and his influence. (Most responses to

Darwin's arguments about animal mind were psychological or theological, rather than philosophical.) In 1984, sociobiologist E. O. Wilson proposed that the popular appeal of animals and nature is based on human nature with his biophilia hypothesis, arguing that this human fascination is genetically based. These ideas engendered numerous scientific studies about human-animal relations and interactions. Although scholars in the humanities have attended to animals in human history for centuries, it is Harriet Ritvo's history, *The animal estate: The English and other creatures in the Victorian age*, published in 1987, to which the recent upsurge of historical interest toward animals is often attributed. Ritvo showed how essential animals were not only to England's development, but also to how English people thought of and about themselves. Also influential was Donna Haraway's 1987 *Primate visions: Gender, race and nature in the world of modern science*, which examined the cultural presuppositions constraining the development of the science of primatology. Steven Baker's 1993 *Picturing the beast* focused attention on the omnipresent, but rarely theorized, representations of animals in art. Historians, philosophers, and art historians became aware of how conflicted and confused our relationships with and ideas about animals are, making animals in human history a ripe field for exploration. (As one author put it in the Wikipedia entry about Animal Studies, "Given the complexity of human-animal relations, one aspect of animal studies is to emphasize that animals are very like us, and yet not at all like us, in interesting ways.") Nigel Rothfels' *Representing animals* 2000 symposium and later edited volume further institutionalized Animal Studies in the humanities and incorporated literature, art, and culture studies. Two university presses, Columbia and Chicago (through Reaktion Books), now support series in Animal Studies. Within each domain (biology, philosophy, history, etc.), explorations about animals can become parochial, but the field of Animal Studies has expanded even further to incorporate all explorations of animals. That is why a major in Animal Studies makes use of knowledge and points of view from all these fields (and others). However much scholars focus on the human bonding with, uses of, relations with, attitudes toward, and representations of animals, most scholars agree that it is important to understand animals in their own right as well.

At the present time, Animal Studies has the two journals already mentioned, as well as one society (ISAZ: International Society for AnthroZoology) and its international annual conference. For the scientist, the Animal Behavior Society is another society that also sponsors an international annual conference. Both societies are extremely supportive of undergraduate involvement and presentation of research. Although several universities in Europe, Canada, and New Zealand, and a few in the US, have courses and specializations in Animal Studies, there is as yet no major in Animal Studies. (There are, of course, majors in Animal Science, which is an applied field usually concerning farm animals or wildlife; students in the proposed ECU Animal Studies major are required to take at least one course in Animal Science through the Department of Agriculture, and can take courses in wildlife biology.) In the US, a few institutions have some related academic specializations:

- Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, CA has a Sociology degree with an "Animals in Human Society" concentration.
- Carroll College in Helena, Montana has a Human-Animal Bond program with its own degree within the Psychology department; this is an applied program mostly using psychological techniques for working with animals.

- Humane Society University, apparently an online teaching affiliate of the Humane Society, offers 30 hours toward an Animal Studies degree, and requires students to take the rest of their coursework from other universities.
- Michigan State University has a graduate specialization in Animal Studies, and some of the faculty hope to develop an Animal Studies major.

If the Animal Studies program were to be approved, ECU would be the first university in the US with an undergraduate degree in Animal Studies, and would potentially gain students from around the globe.

### *Animal Studies as a Major at ECU*

The Animal Studies (ANS) major at ECU would provide students with a means to become knowledgeable about animals and their relationship with humans from diverse perspectives, and simultaneously experience and learn from a strong, traditional liberal arts education. The proposed major incorporates training in and exposure to a diversity of fields of knowledge, including applied fields, sciences, and the arts and humanities.

Animal Studies is an interdisciplinary major that concentrates on nonhuman animals, their interactions and relationships with people, and the mutual influences humans and nonhuman animals have on each other's existence, evolution, and history. Students in Animal Studies receive training in sciences, humanities, and applied fields. Within their cross-disciplinary training, students will choose to emphasize at least one of these areas of study. Graduates of the program will learn to analyze, apply, and evaluate existing ideas, and develop new ideas about nonhuman animals, humans, and their mutual influences. Their cross-disciplinary training will encourage them to think critically about issues from diverse perspectives. Upon completion of the ANS degree, graduates will be able to (1) critically analyze contexts and events concerning animals from diverse points of view; (2) explain, analyze, and evaluate the motives and consequences for diverse human-animal interactions; (3) analyze and evaluate the impacts of human uses of and attitudes toward animals on individuals and communities, and on evolution and history; (4) integrate cross-disciplinary ideas into an awareness of divergent perspectives on animals and humans; and (5) apply skills and expertise in understanding animals and humans to obtain employment.

The Vision of the Animal Studies program is to broaden students' perceptions of animals, of animals' relationships with humans, and of humans' relationships with animals. (The vision for our students is discussed below.)

The Mission of the Animal Studies program is preparing students to be knowledgeable about and understand nonhuman animals and the relationships between humans and animals from diverse perspectives in arts and humanities, the sciences, and applied fields. The lives of animals, the human-animal connection, the complexities of human-animal relationships, ethical and moral concerns about animals, representations of animals and humans, and the significance of animals in human evolution, history, culture, and civilization are all aspects of this knowledge and understanding.

Remarkably, many ECU professors in a diversity of areas of expertise are knowledgeable about animals in some capacity. This includes professors not only in the areas one would expect, such as agriculture, anthropology, biology, and psychology, but also in less traditionally animal-related fields, such as literature, sociology, philosophy, and government. (In fact, most of these professors worked amicably together to develop the Animal Studies major, and are now listed as faculty for the proposed Animal Studies program.) Across the fields of study represented at ECU, animals are viewed as meat, metaphor, vectors of disease transmission, companions, objects of fantasy, legal entities, biological ancestors, objects of beauty, mental entities, and objects of ethical and moral concern. Other ECU professors, in film studies, art history, and humanities, though not experts in Animal Studies, have offered to provide their knowledge in developing courses for the major in the future. Faculty in Psychology (Robert Mitchell, Rosanne Lorden) have been offering courses studying captive monkeys in France (Paris) and free-ranging sea lions in Ecuador (Galápagos) for several years. Robert Mitchell is developing a course to study captive gorillas in Spain (Barcelona), and Ben Freed in Anthropology is developing courses for students to study lemurs in Madagascar. Comparative (Animal) Psychology is currently being offered for the first time at ECU, and the class filled within two weeks of availability.

Not only does ECU already have the faculty to fulfill the vision and mission of the proposed Animal Studies major, but the major fulfills several of the mission goals of ECU. It most obviously embodies two goals: developing and enhancing an environment facilitating intellectual curiosity, cultural opportunities and problem solving abilities for members of the university community; and promoting learning through high-quality programs, research and support services. Intellectual curiosity is the underpinning of the Animal Studies major; without it, no student would be interested. And, with its promotion of learning from courses in multiple departments in Arts and Sciences, and one in Business and Technology, Animal Studies will become a high-quality program and support other high-quality programs at the same time. The interdisciplinary nature of the program will encourage interaction and research among faculty in diverse departments. Robert Mitchell is already at work to bring an international conference on Animal Studies to ECU; he recently co-organized (with Julie Smith, a University of Wisconsin faculty in Languages and Literature) a conference in Toronto on “The minds of animals,” which is potentially being turned into a volume for the Columbia University Press “Animal Studies” series. In addition, the Animal Studies major has the potential to fulfill a third mission goal, to increase and enhance external and internal constituency engagement, while maintaining a connection with the southeastern region of Kentucky. According to the University of Kentucky’s Equine Research Center, “horses are Kentucky’s top agricultural cash crop.”

Housing of the Animal Studies program in Psychology makes sense for several reasons. The department Chair, Robert Brubaker, is supportive of the program. Robert Mitchell is the main initiator of the program, and three other Animal Studies faculty members (Adam Lawson, Rosanne Lorden, Rose Perrine) are also in the Psychology Department. Psychology, thus, is the department providing the most faculty members in support of the program. In addition, students interested in the psychology of animals, or the human-animal bond, are expected to be the most likely candidates for the major (though of course we expect students interested in biology and primatology to apply as well).

The Animal Studies degree offers a traditional liberal arts education, but with more cross-disciplinary

depth and less narrow training. In addition to the General Education requirements, in which students experience lower division courses in diverse fields, the Animal Studies courses mostly require students to experience upper division courses in diverse fields. The 53-56 hours of required courses are necessary to provide the students with broad and in-depth exposure to these diverse fields, and allow for elaboration (via restricted electives) relevant to their chosen area of interest within Animal Studies.

The Animal Studies major should assist students in getting a job at least as much as any other liberal arts degree. The liberal arts degree is valued by employers in a variety of job settings. A student who has earned a degree in Animal Studies should have an even greater ability to take diverse perspectives into account than students in many other majors, because of their experiences dealing with multiple perspectives in their courses. In our multicultural society, such an ability will be a valuable asset in many work environments. But the Animal Studies major offers more than this. The specific jobs available for students in Animal Studies will depend to some degree on their area of focus. In addition to this broad education, students can concentrate on specialized areas for particular jobs they want to target. The Animal Studies major offers 9-11 hours of relevant electives, and 13-17 hours of free electives, from which students can choose. Their advisor (most likely Robert Mitchell, at least initially) will have a list of available courses at ECU that can assist students in developing skills in diverse areas relevant to future jobs. Students who focus on biology or wilderness studies, or on agricultural studies, can approach jobs in more applied fields. Students wishing to pursue work in animal advocacy can examine journalism, photography, art, and other areas for support. Those who wish to develop skill in writing about nature and animals can elect to take courses in literature to harness their potential. The possibilities are many, and students can choose their own direction in collaboration with an advisor, who will provide important mentoring and facilitation of the student's career.

People all over the world are making decisions and being asked to make decisions about animals every day that affect both animals and people. Many questions arise: How should people deal with animals that are a threat to human life? How should people deal with animals that are making human life difficult? How important is maintaining biodiversity? How important are the lives of particular animals or particular species? How important is the maintenance of wildlife and the presence of animals in people's lives? How can we convince people to comply with federal laws mandating the preservation of species that the people do not want preserved? How can we teach animals to help people? Can we help people to take better care of their pets? Should we hunt and eat animals? How have animals influenced human evolution? Are human conceptualizations of animals coherent? Is it helpful to anthropomorphize animals to help children develop empathy? How are contradictory cultural practices like dogfighting and dog shows sustained? How can we develop empathy toward animals so as to thwart cruelty? How can we develop understanding between and bring together people with diverse perspectives on animals (e.g., perspectives based on moral, ethical, or cultural concerns)? Students with a degree in Animal Studies will have examined responses to questions like these from a diversity of disciplines and approaches, and so will be knowledgeable about the different methods of approach to these questions and should be able to provide answers based on that knowledge. While some existing majors might allow students to provide a reasoned response to some of these questions, no existing major brings the interdisciplinary expertise that can allow a student to answer all of these questions in interesting and intelligent ways. Students in Animal Studies should be able to apply their knowledge

and experience with many disciplines to answer diverse questions.

The time is ripe for the creation of the Animal Studies major at ECU. Animal Studies is a developing field that is relatively open at the moment. ECU can provide some guidance for the development of the field. Several faculty members are committed to the program, and some have developed or are planning to develop courses in arts and humanities relevant to the major. (There are already enough scientific and applied courses upon which to build the major, and faculty teaching these courses in Agriculture, Anthropology, Biology, and Psychology have been involved in the creation of the major.) The Psychology department, where the major will be housed, is committed to the program. Students are engaged by animals, and the program has the potential to draw students from all over the US, and perhaps the globe. With the Animal Studies program, ECU has the possibility of starting something intellectually challenging, novel, and on the cutting edge of academia.

Footnote:

1. Although some statements in this document derive from direct experience in the history of Animal Studies, or from obvious web or other references, a few require citation.

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