The Agricultural Education and Communication Department offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Communication, a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science, and a Master of Agricultural Education.

Continuing Education in Agriculture
Cal Poly and the Agricultural Education and Communication Department play an active role in the professional development and continuing education of high school and community college teachers of agriculture. Instructional staff and facilities are provided for workshops and training programs cooperatively sponsored by the University and the State of California. The campus offers an annual summer skills program. The content varies, depending upon the needs and desires of the teachers, as expressed through the California Agricultural Teachers’ Association. Cal Poly faculty provide up-to-date training in the technical phases of agriculture and offer instruction in teaching methods.

Undergraduate Programs

BS Agricultural Communication
The BS Agricultural Communication program prepares students to become professional communicators in the agriculture industry and related fields. Graduates of the program are effective oral and written communicators with an applied knowledge of emerging new media. All students within the major take a common series of courses. The Brock Center for Agricultural Communication provides students the opportunity for industry linkages and professional preparation in this rapidly growing career area.

BS Agricultural Science
The BS Agricultural Science program offers a choice of one of six emphasis areas, plus approved electives that may be selected from one of two career pathways:

1) preparation of future agriculture teachers for the public secondary schools of California, or
2) professional preparation for broad-based agricultural occupations.

The six emphasis areas are:
- Agricultural Engineering Technology
- Agricultural Supplies and Services
- Animal Science

Graduate Program

Master of Agricultural Education

General Characteristics
The Master of Agricultural Education program provides students with the opportunity to focus their graduate study in agricultural education, with an emphasis on preparing candidates for positions as teachers of agricultural education in public schools. The degree is a non-thesis, terminal program that provides practitioners with opportunities for professional development. At least one year of successful high school or community college teaching is required for completion of this
degree program. Working with their advisor and graduate committee, students generally complete projects for coursework in the program that enhance their employment settings, or assist them to become compliant with statewide standards in agricultural education.

**Prerequisites**

For consideration as a graduate student, an applicant will have completed a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum grade point average of 2.75 in the last 90 quarter units. An applicant who meets these standards but lacks prerequisite coursework may be admitted as a conditionally classified student and must make up any deficiencies before advancement to classified graduate standing. An applicant not meeting these academic standards, but who meets the basic CSU standards of a grade point average of 2.5 in the last 90 quarter units attempted, may be conditionally admitted.

All applicants who do not speak and write English as their primary language are required to complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), with a minimum score of 550, and the Test of Written English (TWE), with a minimum score of 4.5.

**Program of Study**

Graduate students must file a formal study plan for the degree with the Graduate Coordinator of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences no later than the end of the quarter in which the 12th unit of approved courses is completed. The formal program of study must include at least 45 units of committee-approved graduate coursework; at least half of the units required by the committee as reflected on the formal study plan must be at the 500 level. Students should refer to the course descriptions in the catalog for credit limitations of individual courses; for example, total credit for Individual Study, is limited to six units. All candidates must meet the current Graduation Writing Requirement.

All students are required to pass an oral comprehensive examination which is normally given during the final quarter of the program of study. A written comprehensive exam is required of all students in the Master of Agricultural Education degree program.