VISION

The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) will be a new model for a 21st century, multidisciplinary college of life-based sciences that prepares students to be leaders and innovators in their chosen careers. The shared biological foundation of the CAFLS departments and school will stimulate student learning and undergraduate research across disciplines; will increase opportunities for team-based faculty research across departments, colleges and institutions; and will make available the latest scientific knowledge for the greater benefit of society.

Mission

The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences supports Clemson University’s land grant mission to provide education, research and service to the public. CAFLS faculty members teach major subjects and core curricula while preparing students to be leaders, creative thinkers and communicators. Emphasis is placed on engaging students in research, internships/co-ops, study abroad and service learning. CAFLS research is focused on the sustainability of agriculture, forests and natural resources; food and packaging systems to ensure a healthy and safe food supply; and biomedical sciences to improve human and non-human health.

STUDENTS

Undergraduate: 3,515
Graduate: 550
Total: 4,065

FACULTY

Full-time: 178
Part-time: 33
Total: 211

Interim Dean George Askew, Ph.D.

George Askew was named interim dean of CAFLS in 2014. He also serves as Clemson’s vice president for Public Service and Agriculture (PSA). Askew earned his Bachelors of Science in forest management, master’s in forestry and doctorate in agronomy from Clemson. He previously has served Clemson as director of the Baruch Institute, executive director of the Wallace F. Pate Foundation for Environmental Research and Education, director of the Pee Dee Research and Education Center and regional Extension director for the Pee Dee region. Askew has received numerous grants from the USDA Forest Service and private agencies for research on forest genetics, seed orchard management, forest recovery from hurricane damage, intensive forest management for energy production and prescribed fire as a forest management tool.
Departments and Schools

Academic programs in CAFLS are offered through the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences; the Department of Biological Sciences; the Department of Food, Nutrition and Packaging Sciences; the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry; the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation; and the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Industry Partnerships

Sonoco Institute for Packaging Design and Graphics: Created to exploit synergies between the graphic communications and packaging science departments. The only university program in the country with this one-of-a-kind multidisciplinary approach to packaging as a core competency.

Sonoco Transport Package Testing Laboratory: Equipped to conduct distribution-packaging tests in accordance with the American Society of Testing and Materials and the International Safe Transport Association.

Cryovac® – Flavour Mark™ – Retort Laboratory: Teaching, research and service facility in the Department of Food, Nutrition and Packaging Sciences.

DuPont “Miracles of Science” Laboratory: Here, plastics are extruded, filled and sealed to create various forms of flexible packaging.

Greenwood Genetic Center: Graduate students conduct basic research in human genetics under the direction of physicians, scientists and Clemson faculty from the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry.

Special Programs

Women in Animal and Veterinary Sciences (WAVS) is a unique living-learning community designed especially for freshmen women majoring in animal and veterinary sciences.

The Student Organic Farm provides an experiential learning environment to develop and demonstrate farming systems and strategies that are ecologically, economically and socially sustainable while strengthening local food systems.

SC LIFE supports research for college students as well as life sciences education for middle school and high school students and their teachers. SC LIFE is supported by $6.4 million in awards from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Clemson University Life Sciences Outreach Center provides hands-on life science laboratories to South Carolina middle and high school students and to the community through two state-of-the-art laboratory classrooms and a computer lab.

CAFLS PLUS offers skills training to prepare students for career opportunities in the private and public sectors, or for professional and graduate schools.

The Eukaryotic Pathogens Innovation Center (EPIC) is an interdisciplinary research cooperative that is at the forefront of biomedical research on some of the most devastating and intractable diseases of humans.

Herbarium is a research tool comprising one of the state’s largest collections of dried, pressed and documented plant specimens.

The Light Imaging Facility is an education and research facility housing a number of advanced light microscopes, specimen sorting equipment, lab and classroom.

Accomplishments & Rankings

- The Life Sciences Facility, a 100,000-sq. ft. facility with 25 research laboratories, faculty offices and three microbiology teaching laboratories.
- More students from CAFLS attend medical, dental and veterinary schools than from any other college in the University.
- CAFLS has the largest undergraduate science- or engineering-based department on campus – the Department of Biological Sciences.
- Ashby B. Bodine, professor emeritus/visiting professor in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, was chosen the Alumni Master Teacher for 2013.
- J. Drew Lanham, professor of wildlife ecology in the School of Agricultural, Forest and Environmental Sciences, was named an Alumni Distinguished Professor and also received the Alumni Master Teacher Award for 2012.
- Robert Kosinski, professor of biological sciences, is one of five Clemson University educators profiled in “The Best 300 Professors” by The Princeton Review.