College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS)


The College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) is home to world-renowned scholars pursuing research that deepens our knowledge of the universe we live in and improves the quality of life.

Our Goals:
- Improve human health.
- Develop new technologies.
- Harness renewable energy and mitigate climate change.
- Conserve ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Sustain a diverse food supply.
- Provide access to clean drinking water.

Modern science is team based. CNAS embodies that principle in everything we teach and practice.

CNAS students leave our campus with an integrated grasp of how they can change the world. These students, and the faculty who teach them, benefit from a structure that is unique among land-grant colleges: CNAS’s 13 departments encompass the life, physical, mathematical, and agricultural sciences.

ORIGINS

CNAS, and UCR itself, trace our roots to The University of California Citrus Experiment Station. Established February 14, 1907, the station contributed greatly to the cultivation of the orange and the overall agriculture industry in California.

CNAS Freshman Scholars Learning Communities Program

The CNAS Freshman Scholars Program is CNAS’ first year learning community designed to build a community of students with common academic goals and a dedication to academic excellence. Members of each community take the majority of their first year classes with the same group of 24 students each quarter. Each group attends classes, studies, learns, and excels together, helping to ensure success in UC Riverside’s rigorous science and math courses.

CAREERS

The ability to recognize and address risks to the food supply from pests and disease gains greater importance as the Earth’s population swells. Research in the natural and agricultural sciences will become even more valuable to conserving species and ecosystems.

CNAS students leave UCR prepared for careers in:
- Health professions
- Industry & Technology – pharmaceutical, chemical, environmental, agricultural, energy, high-tech materials
- Education – from K-12 to public and private colleges and universities
- Policy and regulation – federal, state, and local governments need science experts

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

- Members of the National Academy of Sciences

- MacArthur Genius Award
  Biologist Cheryl Hayashi was recognized for her research in developing new materials based on the remarkable structure and strength of spider silk.

- National Research Initiative Discovery Award
  Professor Julia Bailey-Serres has been recognized for her work on the creation of flood-proof rice – a staple food of half the world’s population.
RESEARCH

A Tradition of Undergraduate Involvement in Research

About half of all CNAS undergraduates engage in research experience outside of coursework, either in the lab or out in the field. Introductory positions may be volunteer with actual paid internships following as students gain proficiency. Many undergraduates have co-authored research papers as a result of their work!

Examples of our research institutes and science centers include:

Institute for Integrative Genome Biology

The Institute for Integrative Genome Biology brings together faculty from a wide variety of campus units to participate in this era of rapid genomics-based discovery.

Center for Invasive Species Research

The Center for Invasive Species Research provides a forward-looking approach to managing invasions by exotic pests and diseases in California.

Natural Reserve System

Created in the 1950s following disruption and loss of wildland sites in California, the UCR Natural Reserve System is a series of living libraries and classrooms throughout the state. There are a total of 37 reserves in the state. UCR manages eight of them.

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

“I visited the campus before I SIR and I was welcomed and made to feel like a student by those already displaying tartan soul values, looking back I wouldn’t change my decision in any way because of the opportunities that I have been given.” – Lisa Bishop, Chemistry with a minor in law and society

STUDENT SUCCESS

Connor Richards ‘16, a fourth-year physics major at the University of California, Riverside, has been awarded the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, one of the most prestigious international scholarships in the world.

CONTACT

Undergraduate Admissions
3106 Student Services Bldg
900 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-3411 • admissions@ucr.edu

admissions.ucr.edu