Unlock Your Potential with Entomology

Insects are the most diverse creatures on Earth, and by studying them, you'll open the door to a world of exciting and rewarding career opportunities. Whether you're drawn to **medical entomology**, **conservation**, **evolution**, or **industry**, an Entomology degree will prepare you for success in a dynamic and unpredictable future. With the flexibility to continue to **medical school** or **graduate school**, your education will position you to thrive in multiple fields.

Why Choose the Entomology Department Over Biology?

- **Smaller, More Personalized Experience**: With only 40-50 undergrads, you get **2-3 dedicated undergraduate advisors**—a much more **hands-on** and supportive environment compared to Biology's 2,500 students.
- **Cohort Model**: In our **Introduction to Entomology (NASC 094)** course, you'll be part of a close-knit group of **8-15 students** instead of Biology's 300+, giving you more **personalized attention** and **early research exposure**.
- **Unique 4+1 Program**: Graduate with a **Master's degree in just 5 years** through our **research-focused 4+1 program**. This path sets you up for **PhD programs**, **NSF Graduate Fellowships**, and even **medical school**.
- **Research-Focused**: All Entomology students are required to complete at least **4 credits of independent research**—ideal for building a strong CV and gaining hands-on experience that looks great on grad school and job applications.
- **Top-Ranked Department**: UCR's Entomology program consistently ranks **#1 or #2** in the nation, with access to one of the **top 10 university collections** in North America.
- **Networking & Career Opportunities**: With active clubs like **BEUSA** and **NHMC**, plus opportunities to **present research** at conferences and get involved in **outreach** programs, you'll build a network that supports your future success.

Entomology at UCR offers you the chance to **specialize** in a field that's essential to the future of science and society.

Career Opportunities in Entomology

An **Entomology degree** offers diverse career paths, from **public health** and **conservation** to **industry** and **research**. Whether you're interested in insects' role in human health, environmental sustainability, or cutting-edge scientific discoveries, you'll gain the specialized knowledge and skills to stand out in an evolving job market. Here's a breakdown of potential career tracks:

1. Medical & Veterinary Entomology

- **Roles**: Public Health Entomologist, Vector Control Specialist, Pest Management Consultant, Research Scientist
- **Where**: Health departments, CDC, WHO, academic institutions, research organizations, private consulting firms
- **Skills**: Knowledge of disease vectors (mosquitoes, ticks, etc.) in humans, pets, or livestock, pest management, epidemiology, molecular biology, genomics, bioinformatics, and modeling.

2. Conservation, Sustainability & Evolution Entomology

- **Roles**: Conservation Biologist, Environmental Consultant, Ecologist, Taxonomist, Evolutionary Biologist, Research Scientist

- **Focus**: Protecting pollinators (e.g., bees), restoring insect populations, studying insect behavior and evolution, and conserving endangered species
- **Where**: Conservation organizations, environmental consultancies, government agencies, research institutions, museums, biodiversity organizations
- **Skills**: Insect ecology, habitat restoration, biodiversity monitoring, taxonomy, systematics, evolutionary biology, molecular biology, genomics and bioinformatics.

3. Navy & Military Applications in Entomology

- **Roles**: Entomologist for Biosecurity, Pest Control Specialist, Military Researcher
- **Focus**: Pest management and vector control in military settings, particularly related to biosecurity
- **Where**: U.S. Navy, Department of Defense, military research organizations
- **Skills**: Applied pest management, biosecurity, field research, molecular biology, genomics, bioinformatics, modeling.

4. Industry & Private Sector

- **Roles**: Pest Control Advisor, Product Development Specialist, Agricultural Entomologist, Environmental Consultant
- **Focus**: Insects in agriculture, urban pest control, and the development of products like pesticides, repellents, and sustainable pest management solutions
- **Where**: Agricultural companies, pest control firms, pharmaceutical companies, environmental consulting firms
- **Skills**: Insect biology, pest management, sustainability practices, product development, molecular biology, genomics, and bioinformatics.

5. Academia & Research

- **Roles**: College/University Professor, Research Scientist, Post-Doctoral Fellow
- **Where**: Universities, research institutions, government-funded labs
- **Skills**: Teaching, publishing innovative research in insect models, mentoring students, research design, data analysis, publishing in peer-reviewed journals, developing innovative techniques in AI sensors, molecular biology, genomics, bioinformatics.

6. State & Federal Agencies

- **Roles**: State Entomologist, Environmental Health Specialist, Regulatory Officer
- **Where**: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state and local health departments
- **Skills**: Regulatory knowledge, pest monitoring, environmental management, managing insect populations affecting agriculture, public health, and natural environments.

7. Teaching & Outreach

- **Roles**: High School Science Teacher, Community Outreach Specialist, Museum Educator
- **Where**: Public and private schools, museums, nature centers, non-profits
- **Skills**: Educating students and the public on the importance of insects in ecosystems, pest management, and conservation. Strong communication, curriculum development, and public speaking.