

# Center Of Excellence

*Scholarship/Internship Program*  
*Summer 2026*



Sponsored by

*Midwest Poultry Consortium*



Photo courtesy of Hy-Line International

*Scholarship Application Deadline - November 10, 2025*

## **The Midwest Poultry Consortium's Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program**

The Midwest Poultry Consortium's Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship (COE) Program offers strong, research-based poultry science education in a welcoming, friendly environment. Faculty and industry members throughout our participating states collaborate to provide students with a unique educational experience and employment opportunities. Courses are taught at one of our participating universities, with credits transferring to the student's home university.

The COE offers 18 poultry science credits in two six-week summer sessions. Laboratory training and industry field trips complement interactive lectures and discussions. This series of courses can combine with a number of majors from your home university (e.g., Ag Engineering, Animal Science, Food Science, Veterinary Science, Ag Economics, Marketing, Biology) to expand opportunities for a rewarding career in the poultry industry.

### **Nationally Recognized Faculty**

Courses are prepared and taught by outstanding faculty from participating universities, related agencies, and experienced poultry industry representatives. The six courses are offered in a sequence of Summer Sessions I and II.

### **Wednesday Night Forums**

On Wednesday evenings, representatives from the poultry industry meet with students. Students are able to interact with industry leaders, learn more about the poultry industry, and explore future internship and career opportunities. Student attendance is required.

### **Research Labs and Instructional Support**

Students will utilize on-campus laboratories to facilitate class exercises. Student laboratories are furnished with appropriate electronic teaching aids and individual student microscopes equipped with video screen monitors. Lecture halls are equipped with modern audio/visual technology.

### **Valuable Industry Internships**

The Midwest Poultry Consortium coordinates internships and on-the-job opportunities for COE students. Internships will fit into the academic timetable for each participating university and will complement the summer's academic courses. Students take courses for six weeks and work in poultry-related internships for at least six weeks following classes.

# **What are COE Graduates Saying Now?**



*"Before COE, I was unsure of the career opportunities I could pursue outside of veterinary medicine. COE allowed me to increase my knowledge about poultry in a way my home university could not provide. The experience helped me find my passion and build connections who continue to support me."*

### **Julia Knudson**

Jennie-O - Live Production Supervisor, Growout  
Starting Position: Live Production Asst Supervisor, Growout  
**COE Class of 2021**



*"COE provided me a skill set that is extremely valuable to the poultry industry and directly pertains to my current career. I am grateful for the special opportunities and connections this program offered."*

### **Paige Williams**

Rose Acre Farms - Assistant Production Manager  
Starting Position: Production Manager Trainee  
**COE Class of 2021-2022**

# Gain the Added Advantage

Daily Lecture: Morning Session, Monday - Friday

Daily Lab: Afternoon Session, Monday - Friday

## SUMMER SESSION I

## SUMMER SESSION II

This is the curriculum for Summer Session I and II (prerequisite: college level chemistry and/or biology course). Course offerings:

### Poultry Products Technology, 3 cr.

May 18 - May 29, 2026\*

Explores procurement, processing, and distribution of poultry meat, eggs, and further processed products. Composition, quality measurements, preservation, and economics are related to the biochemistry, microbiology, and technology involved in current processing methods.

### Avian Physiology, 3 cr.

June 1 - June 12, 2026\*

Introduces systemic physiology of avian species with emphasis on functions related to production; included are endocrine and neural control, special senses, cognition and behavior, thermoregulation, and the major organ systems (cardiovascular, muscular, skeletal, respiratory, renal, and reproductive).

### Breeder Flock and Hatchery Management, 3 cr.

June 15 - June 26, 2026\*

Focuses on the production of high quality day-old chicks and poults and the management factors involved with breeder flocks, incubation, and embryology. Aspects of operating a hatchery are also included. Field trip(s) planned.

### Poultry Nutrition, 3 cr.

May 18 - May 29, 2026\*

Develops a conceptual understanding of nutrient requirements for optimal growth and production of commercial poultry species. The use of computer programming for feed formulation is emphasized.

### Avian Health, 3 cr.

June 1 - June 12, 2026\*

Trains students to identify diseases that commonly plague poultry. Instruction on animal well-being, transport regulations, disease surveillance, and methods of disinfection and sanitation are included. Field trip(s) planned.

### Poultry Enterprise Management, 3 cr.

June 15 - June 26, 2026\*

Offers current poultry management priorities presented by industry professionals. Segments of poultry business management that will be featured include: processing plant, feed milling, production complex, flock service personnel, transportation, construction of large poultry barns, etc.

*\*Anticipated dates. Classes are planned to be held at University of Minnesota. These are accelerated courses; therefore, daily attendance is required. Curriculum subject to change.*

**Average salary for the starting positions below is \$63,800 plus benefits!**



*"I owe much of my industry success thus far to the COE program. I am fortunate to have gained knowledge from the classes and internships and to have made many industry connections. I simply would not be where I am without the COE experience!"*

### Isaac Harreld

Hy-Line North America - Flock Service Manager  
COE Class of 2022-2023



*"COE gave me the opportunity to grow in my interest and knowledge in poultry. The hands-on learning, personal skills, and networking opportunities COE provided were invaluable and showed me the diverse careers within the poultry the industry."*

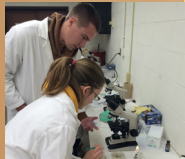
### Josh Mumm

Jamesway - Regional Sales Manager, Western US  
COE Class of 2023-2024

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Hy-Line North America  
ILC Resources  
Indiana State Poultry Association  
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Iowa Turkey Federation  
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Jennie-O  
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Life-Science Innovations  
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Lubing Systems  
MacFarlane Pheasants  
Maple Leaf Farms  
Merck Animal Health  
Michael Foods  
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries  
Michigan Turkey Producers  
Midwest Livestock Systems  
Midwest Poultry Federation  
Miller Poultry  
MN Turkey Research Promotion Council  
Moba  
MPS Egg Farms  
Naturally Recycled Proteins  
Nebraska Poultry Industries  
Nelson Poultry Farms  
North American Gamebird Assn.  
Nova-Tech Poultry  
Novus International  
Ohio Poultry Association  
Opal Foods  
Organic Valley  
Oskaloosa Food Products  
Pilgrim's  
Rembrandt Foods  
Ridley Feed Ingredients  
River View Farms  
Rose Acre Farms  
SANOVO Technology USA  
Select Genetics  
Sietsema Farms  
Sonstegard Foods  
South Dakota Poultry Industries Assn.  
StoneX Group  
Summit  
Sunrise Acres Egg Farms  
Sure Conveyors  
Tigges, Kent  
Trillium Farm Holdings, LLC  
Turkey Valley Farms  
United Egg Producers  
University of Florida  
University of Minnesota  
University of Minnesota-Lincoln  
VAL-CO  
VALO BioMedia North America, LLC  
Vaxxnova  
Vencomatic North America  
VSI  
Wabash Valley Produce  
Weaver Brothers, Inc.  
West Liberty Foods  
Wilson Veterinary Co.  
Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Ind.  
Xgenex  
Zoetis

# What's In It For You?



- Education & Internships
- Networking
- Employment Opportunities
- Lifelong Friends
- A GREAT Summer!



## How Do I Apply?

### Online Application

Submit an application online at [mwpoultry.org](http://mwpoultry.org); only online applications will be accepted. Application on the following two pages is for reference only.

### Transcript

Send an official transcript directly from the Registrar's Office to the MPC office; a passing college level chemistry and/or biology grade is a prerequisite (only transcripts directly from the Registrar are accepted).

### Statement of Interest

In order to qualify for this scholarship, you must submit a *statement of interest* explaining why you would like to be accepted into the COE Scholarship/Internship Program and how the COE will benefit your career plans (no longer than one page, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, double spaced).

### Resume/Internship Interest

Internship placements are determined according to experience and areas of interest. Scholarship preference will be given to applicants willing to complete an internship which will be assigned by MPC and provided by one of the MPC sponsor companies (please note: Internship Fulfillment Policy on following page).

### Admission

Scholarship selection is based on a combination of the following criteria: faculty recommendation, academic record, quality of application, and statement of interest. Preference is given to those students enrolling in three consecutive courses per session and those willing to complete an internship. Phone interviews will be conducted in November and December. Full and partial scholarships will be awarded by January 5.

***"Those were the best two summers I had in my college career!" - COE graduate***

Apply online at [mwpoultry.org](http://mwpoultry.org)

Submit your application for an opportunity to be part of COE 2026!



# Midwest Poultry Consortium Center Of Excellence Scholarship Program

**2026 Application** *(only online applications are accepted: [mwpoultry.org](http://mwpoultry.org))*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First, Middle, Last)

Mailing Address (at school): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. resident?  Yes  No University currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Current major(s) and minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Official transcript required - it is your responsibility to have your transcript forwarded to MPC. Freshman, please add your high school GPA.)

Have you taken/passed a college level chemistry and/or biology course?:  Yes  No

Current college level:  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior  Graduate Student  Returning Adult

Expected graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree level: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in a summer internship(s)?  Yes  No If yes, dates available: \_\_\_\_\_

**Internship Fulfillment Policy:** Full scholarships require completion of an internship/job with an MPC sponsor. Preference is given to applicants willing to complete an internship for partial scholarships. **If you are awarded a full scholarship and you indicated "yes" you are committing yourself to a 2026 summer internship** assigned by MPC and provided by one of the Midwest Poultry Consortium's sponsor companies. **If you mark "yes" but do not complete an internship, your scholarship will be revoked and you will be responsible for your tuition.** Internships are during the summer, following COE classes. Students completing an internship must have a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle.

List titles of most recent college-level courses taken in the following areas:

Biology: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Sciences/Poultry Science: \_\_\_\_\_

Chemistry: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Science: \_\_\_\_\_

Nutrition: \_\_\_\_\_

Physiology: \_\_\_\_\_

Economics/Business/Computer Science: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the courses you plan to take at the Center of Excellence in **2026 (preference is given to those students enrolling in three consecutive courses per session; prerequisite: college level chemistry and/or biology course)**. You may only take up to three classes a summer. All classes must be within the same session:

### Summer Session I

- Poultry Products Technology - 3 cr.  
May 18 - May 29, 2026\*
- Avian Physiology - 3 cr.  
June 1 - June 12, 2026\*
- Breeder Flock and Hatchery Management - 3 cr.  
June 15 - June 26, 2026\*

### Summer Session II

- Poultry Nutrition - 3 cr.  
May 18 - May 29, 2026\*
- Avian Health - 3 cr.  
June 1 - June 12, 2026\*
- Poultry Enterprise Management - 3 cr.  
June 15 - June 26, 2026\*

*\*Anticipated dates. Classes are planned to be held at University of Minnesota. These are accelerated courses; therefore, **daily attendance is required.***

**Housing:** On-campus housing is an important part of the educational experience and is strongly encouraged. Housing is included with scholarship. If accepted, do you need on-campus housing?  Yes  No

**Faculty Reference:** A faculty reference is required. Please provide the name and email address of the faculty member you have contacted as your reference. MPC will send a reference email to the faculty member listed below. You may use any faculty member as a reference (an Animal Science faculty member is suggested).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Email

### Required Attachments/Enclosures

**Statement of Interest:** In order to qualify for this scholarship, you must submit a short *statement of interest* explaining why you would like to be accepted into the Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program and how the COE might benefit your career plans (no longer than one page, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, double spaced).

**Resume:** Internship placements will be dependent upon resume qualifications, availability, and areas of interest.

**Submit your online application *no later than November 10, 2025*, to be considered for the COE.**

*By submitting your application, you certify the information provided is accurate.*

# FOR REFERENCE ONLY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# APPLY ONLINE

Phone interviews will be conducted in November and December. Applications will be reviewed by the Screening Committee. Students awarded scholarships will receive acceptance letters by January 5.

*If you are accepted into the Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program, you will be required to sign a Code of Conduct and an Internship Fulfillment Policy contract.*

### Midwest Poultry Consortium

4630 Churchill Street, # 1 • St. Paul, MN 55126

Phone: 651.766.8118 • Fax: 651.638.0756

mpc@mw poultry.org • mw poultry.org

# By the Numbers ...

COE is a unique program guiding students through recruitment, education, internship, employment, and networking opportunities in the poultry industry.

## Education Statistics

- Since its inception, MPC has sent 625 students through the COE. Of those, 280 students have earned their poultry emphasis by completing both summer sessions.
- The COE boasts nationally recognized experts from universities and related agencies, as well as poultry industry representatives, who come together for a one-of-a-kind educational experience.
- In 2025, there were 17 faculty members and 32 students. The student-faculty ratio and one-on-one attention are exceptional.

		Breakdown of COE Students																					
Year	# of Full Scholarships	Other	FL	IA	IL	IN	KS	MI	MN	MO	NE	ND	OH	SD	UWM	UWRF	*	Total:					
2025	21	1	2	6	2	1	1	5	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	32
2024	22	1	1	1	4	4	1	3	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	0	35
2023	23	1	3	1	4	0	1	1	3	1	1	3	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	30
2022	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	26
2021	22	0	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	30
2020	22	0	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	29
2019	23	1	2	3	3	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	0	36
2018	25	0	1	2	5	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	3	1	4	1	3	1	1	0	35
2017	30	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	2	4	2	2	3	1	1	0	36
2016	27	1	2	2	2	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	29
2015	27	0	2	3	1	4	2	4	2	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	5	1	1	5	3	32	
2014	28	0	2	5	1	5	2	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	7	3	5	3	5	34	
2013	29	0	1	4	1	6	2	5	3	0	1	1	0	0	2	3	5	1	3	5	1	27	
2012	26	0	1	3	1	7	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	5	1	3	3	0	0	28	
2011	28	1	2	2	1	5	2	3	3	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	27	
2010	27	0	1	2	1	5	3	3	4	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	3	0	2	1	0	29	
2009	29	0	2	1	2	6	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	3	0	30	
2008	29	1	2	3	1	4	1	3	3	3	1	1	0	0	3	3	1	3	3	1	1	31	
2007	30	2	1	3	1	8	2	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	0	39	
2006	39	3	4	4	0	9	1	5	4	0	0	1	1	3	2	2	0	3	2	0	0	30	
2005	30	4	3	4	1	2	0	1	2	0	3	1	1	2	4	2	0	3	2	0	0	25	
2004	25	0	0	2	1	3	2	2	3	0	3	1	2	0	5	1	0	5	0	0	0	23	
2003	23	0	0	2	0	4	2	2	1	0	2	1	4	0	5	0	0	9	0	0	0	31	
2002	31	0	0	3	2	5	3	3	2	0	1	1	2	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	32	
2001	32	0	0	1	2	6	4	4	0	0	2	0	1	2	9	1	0	9	1	0	0	36	
2000	36	0	0	1	2	3	3	4	2	0	0	0	3	4	12	2	0	9	1	0	0	26	
1999	26	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	6	3	0	1	0	2	1	9	0	3	2	0	0	22	
1998	22	0	0	0	3	2	2	3	3	0	1	0	3	0	3	2	0	3	2	0	0	29	
1997	29	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	5	1	10	3	0	10	3	0	0	21	
1996	21	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	2	1	8	1	0	8	1	0	0	21	
<b>Total:</b>		19	44	94	38	120	49	88	71	34	32	28	70	37	109	50	22	905					

\*Students who paid their own tuition to attend COE classes or sponsor employed students. **Total COE Students:** 625  
 Students receiving a partial scholarship to attend COE classes. **Students who completed both years:** 280

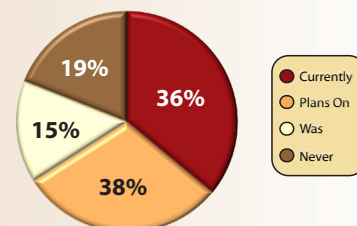
## Internship Statistics

- In 2025, 27 paid industry internships were coordinated with MPC sponsor companies for COE students. Students received industry training to complement the knowledge gained from COE classes and labs.
- 85% of COE graduates said COE provided professional connections they remain in contact with today.\*\*

## Job Statistics

- 84% of students said the COE experience provided skills beneficial to their careers.\*\*
- 81% of COE students are now, plan on, or were employed in the poultry industry.\*\*
- Poultry is a growing industry offering great career potential with opportunities in farm management, processing, veterinary medicine, research and development, feed and nutrition, welfare, engineering, sales and marketing, public policy, consumer education, and more.

Current Poultry Employment Status



\*\*From the 5-year student survey done in 2023.

**Don't let this opportunity pass you by ... apply to be part of the 2026 COE class today!**

## Application

Students interested in the COE must complete an online application at [mwpoultry.org](http://mwpoultry.org). The enclosed application is for reference only.

## Statement of Interest

In order to qualify for this scholarship, you must submit a *statement of interest* explaining why you would like to be accepted into the COE and how the COE might benefit your career plans (no longer than one page, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, double spaced).

## Admission

A screening committee evaluates the applications and selection is based on a combination of the following criteria: faculty recommendation, academic record, quality of application, and statement of interest. Preference is given to those students enrolling in three consecutive courses per session and those willing to complete an internship. Students accepted into the COE will be notified by January 5 and will be sent information to complete for enrollment in summer classes.

## Tuition and Per Credit Fees

If you are awarded a COE scholarship (full or partial), the Midwest Poultry Consortium pays your tuition and/or on-campus housing. Tuition includes access to many on-campus services.

## On-Campus Housing

On-campus housing is strongly encouraged as it is an important part of this educational experience. On-campus housing is included in all scholarships.

## Recreation

Enjoy free-time with your classmates in the evenings and on weekends. Students have enjoyed day trips, barbecues, recreational athletics, and more.



**PARTICIPATING STATES**

### Midwest Poultry Consortium

4630 Churchill Street, #1

St. Paul, MN 55126

Phone: 651.766.8118 • Fax: 651.638.0756

[mpc@mwpoultry.org](mailto:mpc@mwpoultry.org) • [mwpoultry.org](http://mwpoultry.org)

**Final application deadline is**

**November 10, 2025.**

*Online applications only.*