

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE

ZOO-KEEPING



ANIMAL
BEHAVIOR
INSTITUTE

A more personal education

A giraffe with brown and white patterned fur is looking down at a person. The person, seen from behind, is wearing a light green long-sleeved shirt and has their hair in a ponytail. They are holding a small piece of food up to the giraffe's mouth. They are separated by a green metal fence with a wooden rail. In the background, there are palm trees and a clear blue sky.

MEANINGFUL

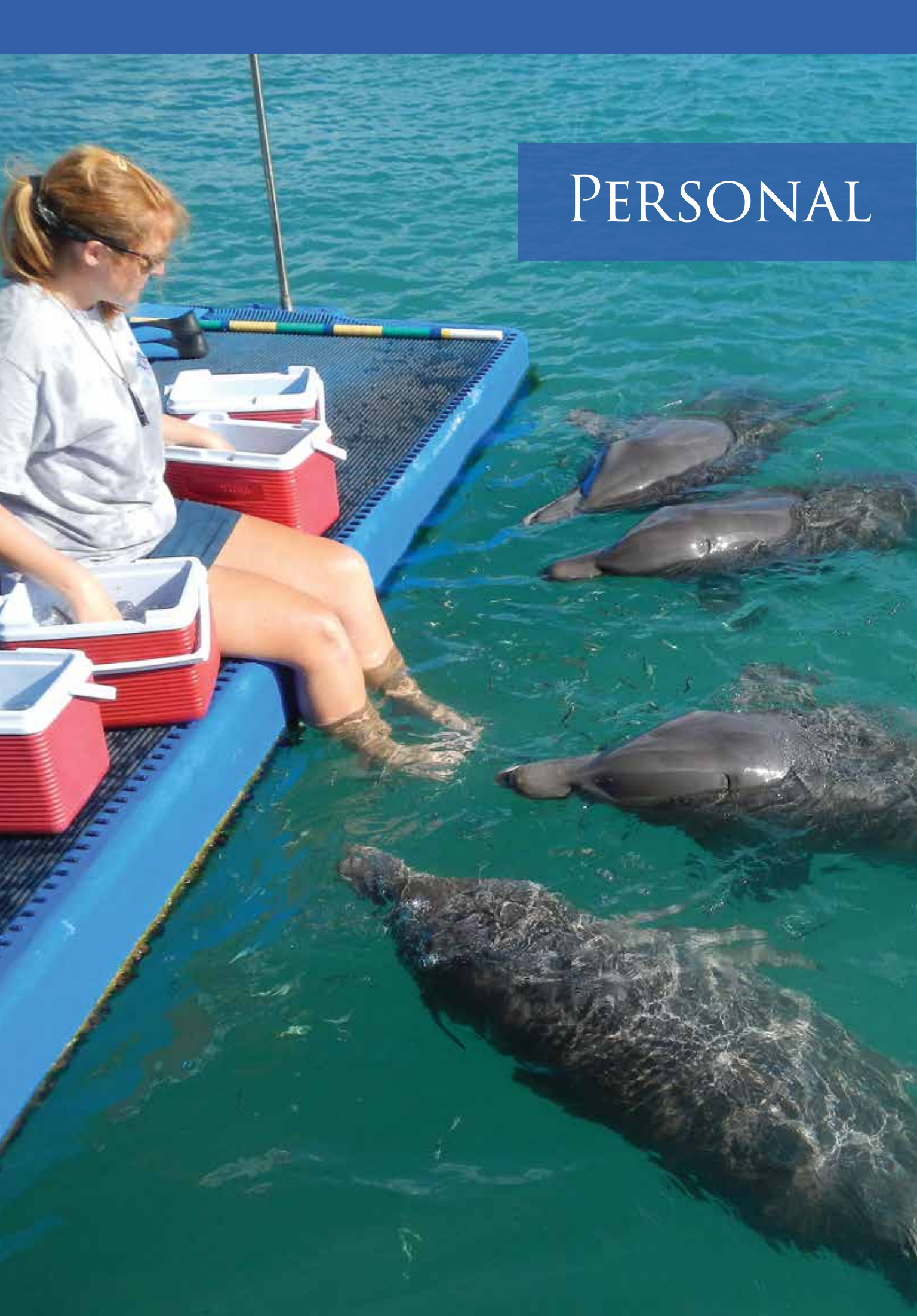
WHAT

IS ZOOKEEPING?

Zoo science includes all the disciplines needed to properly manage and care for wild animals in captivity. Zoo professionals need a good working knowledge of proper nutrition, behavior, record keeping, management and conservation. Keepers and curators may be generalists, caring for all animals in the facility, or they may specialize in particular animal groups, such as carnivores or marine mammals. Alternatively, they may focus on a particular area of husbandry, such as nutrition or animal behavior.

Keepers are the primary caregivers for zoo animals; thus, they need to be careful observers of each animal and exhibit. Proper care includes feeding, cleaning, observing and enriching the animals on a daily basis. In addition, zoo keepers may actively train animals to participate in their own husbandry. For example, they may learn to voluntarily submit to injections or physical exams. At many zoos and aquariums, the keepers are expected to give regular public presentations to educate the public and encourage conservation. Consequently, those interested in zookeeping careers should be comfortable with public speaking and environmental education.

Are you ready to get started in zookeeping? The Animal Behavior Institute is the only institution to offer accredited, online programs in zoo science. Our specialized training will give you the skills you need to succeed in zookeeping and embark on a new career.



PERSONAL

WHO

WORKS IN ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS?

Zoo keepers and aquarists can find work at the 230 AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) accredited zoos and aquariums or more than a thousand other USDA licensed zoos, wildlife parks, marine parks, wildlife centers, museums, and education or conservation facilities. What are some of the positions available working in zookeeping?

- Zoo keeper
- Education manager
- Animal trainer
- Outreach coordinator
- Collection manager
- Docent
- Curator of exhibits
- Volunteer coordinator
- Conservation biologist
- Zoo director
- Nutritionist
- Veterinarian
- Education specialist
- Veterinary technician

The outlook for professionals in animal care and service overall is positive. The field of animal care and service workers, which includes zoo keepers and animal trainers, is expected to grow at 15% over the next decade*. However, competition for positions as zoo keepers or aquarists is expected to remain keen. Our program in Zookeeping will give you the competitive edge you need to secure a position and advance in this field.

*U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook.

FLEXIBLE



WHEN

CAN I START?

Now! Getting started is easy - you can apply online in minutes. Your academic advisor can help you plan your courses. Your certificate in Zookeeping requires the completion of five online courses and 40 hours of relevant field experience. Most students finish their certificate in 6-12 months.

Academic Curriculum

The coursework is designed to provide you with a rigorous education in zoo science, including the fundamentals of husbandry, record keeping, animal management, conservation, education, nutrition, health and disease. In addition, you'll choose an elective from the field of animal behavior, training and enrichment.

The four required courses for this certificate program are:

ABI 142 Environmental Education & Outreach

ABI 221 Husbandry & Record Keeping

ABI 242 Exotic Animal Management & Conservation

ABI 311 Animal Nutrition, Health & Disease

You will also select one elective from the following:

ABI 222 Animal Enrichment

ABI 233 Animal Training*

ABI 251 Behavior & Training of Marine Mammals

ABI 281 Avian Training

ABI 291 Carnivore Training & Behavior

ABI 378 Primate Behavior & Enrichment

*Must have access to an animal.

Field Requirement

We believe that academic training must be accompanied by real world experience to be truly effective. During your time as a student, you will complete a field requirement consisting of 40 hours of hands-on experience as an employee, intern or volunteer at an approved institution of your choice. One of the strengths of our program is that students are able to choose where they would like to complete their fieldwork; the facility is not assigned.

EXCEPTIONAL



WHY

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
INSTITUTE?

Widespread Recognition & Acceptance

You can be confident about pursuing your education with the Animal Behavior Institute. Our quality programs enjoy widespread acceptance at other institutions. We are licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges* and accredited by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). As a result of this Accredited Provider status, the Animal Behavior Institute is able to offer IACET CEU credits. These credits are accepted by hundreds of professional associations.

*The Animal Behavior Institute is licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges having met the requirements of Article 8 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes of North Carolina. Please note that the NC State Board of Community Colleges is not an accrediting agency.

Learning Partner of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA)

The Animal Behavior Institute is one of the few select institutions to be chosen as a Learning Partner of the AZA. Our professional relationship with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums allows you to receive dual credit for many courses. Qualified courses can be applied towards both your certificate with the Animal Behavior Institute and an AZA Professional Development Certificate.



Learn ZIMS Teaching Partner

The Animal Behavior Institute is proud to be a ZIMS Teaching Partner. ZIMS is the state of the art system employed by zoos all over the world – yet the Animal Behavior Institute is one of just twelve institutions globally to enjoy this exclusive teaching partnership. We incorporate the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) into our courses to ensure that our students learn the world standard in animal records management. You'll be graduating from ABI with a unique skill set that will set you apart from your competition.



Distance Education Accrediting Council

The Distance Education Accrediting Council has recognized the Animal Behavior Institute as an Approved Provider after completing the Approved Quality Curriculum review process. AQC approval has been granted to all courses in the Canine Training & Behavior certificate program. Please note that this approval is not accreditation.



Upon graduation, students may begin using the designation CZKP, Certified Zookeeping Professional.

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Personal Support

We'll provide you with close personal support from the day you begin until well after you've finished your program. When you enroll at the Animal Behavior Institute, your academic advisor will help you plan your individual program and answer any questions that arise along the way. Students have the freedom to choose how many classes to take each semester, when to take them and how to pay for them. And our flexible financing makes any program affordable. Students can choose to finance a single course or their entire program – it's up to you.

As an alumnus, you'll have access to the same resources you've come to enjoy as a student. This includes access to job and internship listings, advising and assistance with resumes and cover letters. We're with you before and after you graduate.

Our Approach

All courses at the Animal Behavior Institute share a common core, building a strong foundation and then applying that core to problem solving. The highlight of each week is a student-centered discussion; students work collectively to solve real world problems and case studies. Our approach helps build a strong rapport between each individual, their student colleagues, and the faculty. Small class sizes ensure that you'll know your instructors and receive the personal education you deserve.



PROFESSIONAL

WHAT

IS UNIQUE ABOUT
OUR FACULTY?

An academic institution is only as strong as their faculty and ours are outstanding. Our faculty are selected on the basis of their education, experience, and passion for teaching. We'd like to introduce you to two of the instructors in our Zookeeping program.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



DR. GINA CALDWELL

Professor of Animal Behavior

Dr. Caldwell teaches courses in animal behavior and psychology at multiple universities. She has dedicated her career to animal training, behavior, and welfare. Dr. Caldwell has over twenty-five years of experience in the behavioral science and zoological field working with a variety of species; her graduate research focused on the effects of environment enrichment on sea otter behavior. She has participated in several marine conservation and research projects with a diverse group of animals including bottlenose dolphins, sea otters, penguins, and right whales. Dr. Caldwell works at a private zoo where she collaborates with the curatorial team on best animal welfare practices, mentors staff on animal husbandry, and designs habitats to promote species appropriate behaviors.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



BARBARA TODDES

Professor of Animal
Nutrition

Professor Toddes is the Nutrition Program Director at the Philadelphia Zoo; she is responsible for all aspects of nutritional management, including diet formulation, nutritional research, keeper training and staff supervision. She manages a centralized commissary that services a collection of 1,400 animals in 17 different exhibit locations.

In addition to her myriad responsibilities at the zoo, Professor Toddes is a popular lecturer at universities and conferences around the world. She actively shares her knowledge and experience with colleagues, presenting at numerous symposiums and workshops, and provides an ongoing lecture series for keepers and animal care staff. Professor Toddes is an active researcher, authoring over two dozen professional publications on zoo animal nutrition.

Visit us at www.animaledu.com for a complete list of instructors and their qualifications.

Office of Admissions

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