

Biology with Teacher Licensure in Science

Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences



Why Biology with Teacher Licensure?

Well-prepared biology teachers are essential to helping our society become more scientifically literate. For many students, high school biology is the last course they take designed to help them understand the important role of science in general and biology in particular in our technological world. For other students, biology courses are the first step toward careers in natural resources, biotechnology, medicine, etc. The job of the high school science teacher is critical to the development of our society!

Major Program of Study

Students combine a study of biology, chemistry, physics, and the Earth and space sciences with a study of teaching foundations and various field and clinical experiences as they complete this major. Successful completion of this program leads toward a Bachelor of Science in Biology as well as an Illinois teaching license for grades 9-12 science. The culminating experience for this program is a 16-week student teaching experience. Students considering a Biology major should complete at least one year each of high school biology, chemistry, and physics (if available) as well as four years of English, two to three years of a foreign language, and three years of mathematics.

Faculty

Department of Biological Sciences faculty hold doctoral degrees from distinguished universities across the United States such as the Universities of Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, and New Mexico; Auburn University; Iowa State; Louisiana State; University of Manitoba; Miami University–Ohio; South Dakota State; and Southern Illinois University.

Academic Awards

GPA-Based Scholarships – No Application

The following scholarships are awarded by the Scholarship Committee based on overall GPA and the number of hours attended at WIU. Students selected for these scholarships will be notified in mid-Spring semester. We also award the Mary A. Bennett Award in the Fall to the outstanding Fall senior:

- **Roy M. Sallee Award** – GPA, ACT, Year in School: Outstanding GPA, Freshman. Major, Other Requirements: Biology major, awarded in Spring; Award Amount: Varies
- **H. D. Waggoner Memorial Award** – GPA, ACT, Year in School: Outstanding GPA, Sophomore; Major, Other Requirements: Biology major, awarded in Spring; Award Amount: \$200
- **Mary A. Bennett Award** – GPA, ACT, Year in School: Outstanding GPA, Senior; Major, Other Requirements: Biology major, awarded in Fall (for Fall graduating seniors) and Spring; Award Amount: \$200
- **R. M. Myers Award** – GPA, ACT, Year in School: Outstanding GPA, Junior; Major, Other Requirements: Biology major, awarded in Spring; Award Amount: \$200
- **Jean S. and Roger M. Morrow Award for Biology Education** – GPA, ACT, Year in School: Outstanding GPA, Junior; Major, Other Requirements: Biology with Teacher Licensure major, awarded in Spring; Award Amount: \$200

Scholarships Requiring an Application

The following scholarships require an application at various times of the year. Their forms are typically posted in PDF format next to each award description. If you do not find a current application form posted, please contact the Chair of the Biological Sciences Scholarship Committee or obtain a hard copy from the Biological Sciences department advisors:

- **Jim Miner Scholarship**
- **P. James Nielsen Science Award**
- **Paul Nollen Biology Honors Scholarship**
- **Stanko Science Education Scholarship**
- **George M. Ward Scholarship for Environmentally Concerned Students**

Honors in Biology

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In the Biology major, honors students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, complete research and prepare an honors thesis under the direction of a department faculty member. Successful completion of the departmental honors requirements is noted on the official transcript, and program graduates receive special recognition at Commencement.

Student Activities

Biology students in the teacher licensure program participate in a number of activities through their program, including judging science fairs, coordinating events for Science Olympiad, and attending the WIU Secondary Science Education Conference and Biology Day. They are also strongly encouraged to participate in professional organizations such as the Illinois Science Teachers Association, National Science Teachers Association, and the National Association of Biology Teachers. In addition, students can participate in several departmental organizations such as the WIU National Science Teachers Association Student Chapter, Wildlife Society, Sportsman's Club, Tri-Beta, Botany Club, Pre-Professional Club, and the Fishing Club. A wide variety of student activities and organizations are available to all Western students. Learn more at wiu.edu/osa.

Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station

Dr. Alice Kibbe, a well-known botanist, had a dream of starting a field station to promote teaching and research in field biology and ecology. Her ideals of promoting teaching, research, and conservation are the cornerstones on which the Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station has been built. The Kibbe Life Science Station rests on 1,689 acres of natural area along the Mississippi River owned by Western, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. The facilities provide housing for 48 people, a community kitchen, a large gathering room, and two classrooms. To schedule research, events, or field courses, contact Sean Jenkins at (309) 298-2045 or James Lamer at (217) 256-4519.

Study Abroad Programs

Biology majors have the opportunity to take classes in popular countries such as Australia, Finland, China, New Zealand, and England. Previous Biology students have traveled to Costa Rica and studied the tropical environment, ecosystems, and habitats. There are many classes to choose from which all must be pre-approved by the Department Chair. Courses offered vary every semester; therefore, course availability cannot be guaranteed.

After College

The vast majority of our students begin their teaching careers upon graduation while a few opt for other related careers. In addition to careers in teaching at public and private schools, graduates are also sought as corporate trainers; education specialists in nontraditional settings such as parks, museums, zoos (may require a zoo and aquaria certificate depending upon the site); tutors; online teachers; as well as other positions needing an individual who possesses excellent people skills, ability to educate others, and a strong content background.

For More Information

You can learn more about the Department of Biological Sciences by visiting wiu.edu/biology or by calling the department office at (309) 298-1546.

wiu.edu/biology



WIU Biological Sciences

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