

Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

At WIU, students are able to pursue studies in biology leading to a career in laboratory research such as biotechnology or in field-related studies involving evaluation of environmental problems, marine biology, wildlife management, or conservation.

**Biology**

At WIU, four options are available in Biology. Students may receive their B.S. in Biology with an option in Botany (Plant Science), Microbiology, Zoology, or in Biology with Teacher Certification for high school teaching. Biology at WIU is designed to give students in-depth coverage of one of these options while exposing them to all of the aspects of the life sciences from the molecular to the community level. As a result of their exposure to the diversity of biology and to the other sciences, social sciences and humanities, biologists are among the most adaptable of graduates.

Many students majoring in biology pursue advanced degrees at medical or other professional schools while others continue their studies at the graduate level. A masters (M.S.) in biology is available at WIU and a number of undergraduates continue their education here. Others enroll at one of the major institutions of graduate study in the country.

At WIU, a majority of the courses from the first year to the graduate level have a laboratory component. Except for some introductory laboratories, all courses are taught by a faculty member with a Ph.D. Emphasis in each course is on learning by doing and consequently class sizes in laboratories are kept small. In courses with a field component, class size is held to 14 students. This low number allows each student to view the material presented by the faculty member in the field, ask questions, and actually handle and study organisms directly.

Opportunities For Your Future

Biologists are currently in great demand and according to figures provided by the state of Illinois, this need for qualified individuals is expected to increase 33 percent between now and 2005. Students graduating from WIU in biology have successfully completed study at professional and graduate schools. They currently have careers in all areas of medicine, in dentistry, nursing, medical technology, veterinary medicine, optometry, physical therapy, environmental studies, education at all levels, research for state, federal and private agencies, in state and federal conservation programs, pest control, range and wildlife management, sales of biological materials, and marine biology.

Special Opportunities

Students who maintain a GPA of 3.5/4.00 may enroll in the Department of Biological Sciences Honors Program. This research-oriented program allows students to complete individual projects under the supervision of experienced investigators. Many of these projects result in publications in specialty journals and in presentations at scientific meetings. Successful completion of the departmental honors requirements is noted on the official transcript and program graduates receive special recognition at commencement.

The Leslie Malpass Library is an architectural and visual showplace, as well as a superb learning center.

WIU is part of ILLINET On-Line, a computerized network of the major libraries in Illinois. The network provides students with quick access to the holdings of 800 other academic and nonacademic Illinois libraries with more than 22 million volumes. Students can have interlibrary loans in their hands within a day or two. The library has a regional research center in Special Collections, four specialized branch libraries on campus, and an extensive law library.



Faculty

There are 20 faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences. All hold the Ph.D. degree in biology and are involved in teaching in the undergraduate program. They conduct research in their areas of specialty. Faculty have expertise in nearly every area of biology from the molecular to the organismal level and in every group of organisms from bacteria to marine mammals.

Facilities

Biological Sciences is located in Waggoner Hall. In addition to lecture rooms and regular teaching laboratories, Waggoner Hall contains a molecular biology laboratory and electron microscope rooms. A wide range of additional equipment is available for class use including: four-wheel drive vehicles, a large pontoon boat, outboard motor boats, and jon boats. A greenhouse is located adjacent to Waggoner Hall and contains tropical, mesic, xeric and research rooms for use in teaching botany.

Kibbe Station And Shedd Aquarium

In addition to its facilities on campus, WIU maintains the Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station located on the Mississippi River at Warsaw, Illinois, 45 miles west of Macomb. A total of 1,300 acres is available for teaching and research in habitats ranging from tall grass prairie to river islands. A program of courses is offered each summer at Kibbe and facilities are utilized by field courses at other times of the year.

WIU is affiliated with the John G Shedd Aquarium in Chicago through the Office of Aquatic Studies. The Department of Biological Sciences offers courses at the Shedd Aquarium and faculty, undergraduate and graduate students are able to conduct research utilizing animals housed at the Aquarium. This allows WIU to have access to marine as well as freshwater and terrestrial organisms.

We Are Here To Serve

WIU is an interactive public university serving more than 13,000 enrolled students. Along with its commitment to students, WIU recognizes the needs of the region, state, and society, and plays a significant role in cultural, economic, and educational developments.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admissions counselors are available to introduce prospective students to Western, and individual appointments may be arranged in advance with faculty or advisers in academic departments. Campus tours, led by WIU students, are given at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. when the University is in session. The reception center is also open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (offering tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.) on Saturdays by appointment when the University is in session. Admissions counselors are available to talk about college plans at this time. For more information, or to arrange a visit, please contact the WIU Admissions Office at 115 Sherman Hall, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390, 309/298-3157, or toll-free 877/PICKWIU (742-5948).

Western Illinois University is a fully compliant affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. Please let us know how we may accommodate any special needs you have.



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