

Medical Sciences

Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences



Program of Study

The Medical Sciences program offered by the Department of Biological Sciences prepares students going into any pre-professional programs in Medicine, Physical Therapy, Dentistry, and Optometry. A 2.75 minimum GPA is required in this program. The department provides advanced coursework in medical subjects such as bacteriology, medical mycology, virology, immunology, microbial ecology, parasitology, pathogenic bacteriology, vertebrate embryology, comparative anatomy, histology, biology of aging, and neurology.

The Bachelor of Science in Biology (Medical Sciences emphasis), coupled with a minor in Psychology, provides excellent preparation for both the Master of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Physical Therapy and Optometry Colleges. It also prepares students to take the required entrance exams: the GRE and OAT. The Bachelor of Science in Biology (Medical Sciences emphasis), coupled with a minor in Chemistry, provides excellent preparation for students entering into Medical and Dental Schools. It also prepares each student to take the required MCAT and DAT entrance exams. This program includes rigorous coursework in physiology, anatomy, microbiology, cell biology, genetics, organic and inorganic chemistry, and general physics.

Faculty

Department of Biological Sciences faculty hold doctoral degrees from distinguished universities across the United States such as the Universities of Arkansas, Cornell, Colorado State, Connecticut, Eastern Illinois, Georgia, Iowa, Iowa State, Kentucky, Louisiana State, Maryland College Park, Massachusetts, Miami University–Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, MIT, Missouri, New Mexico, Northern Illinois, Southern Illinois, and Texas A&M.

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 an outstanding senior (see the Mary A. Bennett Award below) in the Fall to the outstanding graduating 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: Varies
- **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: Varies
- **R. M. Myers Award** – GPA, ACT, Year in School: Outstanding GPA, Junior; Major, Other Requirements: Biology major; awarded in Spring; Award Amount: Varies
- **Jean S. and Roger M. Morrow Award for Biology Education** – GPA, ACT, Year in School: Outstanding GPA, Junior; Major, Other Requirements: Biology Education major; awarded in Spring; Award Amount: Varies

- **Robert Henry Biological Sciences Award for Botany** – *GPA, ACT, Year in School*: Full-time undergraduate majoring in Biology; *Major, Other Requirements*: Plant Biology/Botany; awarded in Spring; *Award Amount*: \$150
- **Samuel L. Singer Award for Microbiology** – *GPA, ACT, Year in School*: Outstanding GPA, Senior; *Major, Other Requirements*: Microbiology; awarded in Spring; *Award Amount*: Varies

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. 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 can participate in several departmental organizations such as the Beta Beta Beta Honor Society, Pre-Professional Club, Zoology Club, Botany Club, The Wildlife Society, The Fishing Club, and Sportsman's Club. A wide variety of student activities and organizations are available to all Western students. Learn more at student.services.wiu.edu/osa.

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

Graduates typically enroll at Medical Schools, Physical Therapy Schools, Dental Medical Schools, and Colleges of Optometry. After acceptance into one of these schools, Western's graduates have gone on to complete their degrees and enter into successful practices and careers.

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

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