



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Pre-Optometry

Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

Program of Study

The Pre-Optometry program offered by the Department of Biological Sciences prepares the student with rigorous coursework in calculus, statistics, physiology, anatomy, microbiology, cell biology, genetics, organic and inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, and general physics. 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.

Faculty

Department of Biological Sciences faculty hold doctoral degrees from distinguished universities across the United States such as the Universities of Wisconsin–Madison, Rhode Island, Missouri, Georgia, Michigan, Arkansas, Connecticut, and Minnesota; Cornell; MIT; Colorado State; Maryland College Park; Northern Illinois; Iowa State; Louisiana State; Miami University, Ohio; and Southern Illinois. Faculty members are dedicated educators, skilled in fostering active student participation. They are also active scholars, who are involved in research and have to their credit books, chapters in books, articles, and scholarly presentations at professional conferences.

Academic Awards

The Department of Biological Sciences offers 11 academic awards to our outstanding Biology students: the Dr. Robert Henry Biological Sciences Award for achievement in the study of Botany, the Jean S. and Roger M. Morrow Award for Achievement in Biology Education, the Junior Honors Award for honors students with a GPA of 3.5 or more, the Mary A. Bennett Award for an outstanding Biology senior, the Mary McCutcheon Hofsess Scholarship for an entering Biology freshman of Brown County, IL, the Paul Nollen Biology Honors Awards for junior and senior honors students, the R. M. Myers Award for an outstanding Biology junior, the Roy M. Sallee Award for an outstanding Biology freshman, the Biology Senior Honors Award, and the Western Opportunity Departmental Scholarship for freshmen from underrepresented groups. Detailed information on awards and scholarships is available from the department office, (309) 298-1546, the Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001, or on the web at www.wiu.edu/Scholarship.

Honors in Biology

To be eligible for the Illinois 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. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours and up to 59 semester hours of undergraduate courses are admitted with a grade point average of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 semester hours or more. To find out more, visit www.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.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Student Activities

Biology students can participate in several departmental organizations such as the Wildlife Society, Sportsman's Club, Tri-Beta, and the Health Professions Club. A wide variety of student activities and organizations are available to all Western students. Learn more at <http://osa.wiu.edu>.

Study Abroad Programs

Many Biology students choose to study abroad at the James Cook University in Australia's tropical north. Students work through the Travel and Study Abroad Program to select courses that correspond to courses at Western.

Leslie F. Malpass Library

The library and its five branches house more than one million cataloged volumes, 3,300 current journal subscriptions, and 25 foreign and domestic newspapers. In addition, the library provides computer access to resources worldwide, including 800 other Illinois libraries with more than 22 million volumes. When necessary, the interlibrary loan program can have materials in students' hands within a day or two.

After College

Usually, students from Western are admitted to the Illinois College of Optometry or the University of Missouri–St. Louis. There are 17 schools throughout the United States and Puerto Rico that are members of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. After acceptance to optometry school, Western graduates have gone on to complete their degrees and enter successful practices.

For More Information

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

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western Illinois University is a member of the NCAA and competes at the Division I level, sponsoring 20 intercollegiate sports in a broad-based athletics department. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost programs guarantee that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, room, and board.

Western Illinois University complies with all state and federal nondiscrimination laws, orders, and regulations. Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution and affirms its commitment in all programs and activities to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, national origin, and status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at www.admissions.wiu.edu by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

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