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University
Department of
Biological Sciences

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(Secretary)

The Axon

“Speeding up the delivery of biology news”

Important Spring Registration Information

SPRING REGISTRATION: You will need to see an advisor before you can register for classes for Spring 2010. We have three academic advisors on staff :

Megan Landes (freshmen)

Beth Harmison (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors) and

Vicki Walters (juniors and seniors).

To schedule an advising appointment, please call (309) 298-1546 or stop by the Biology Department Office, Waggoner 372 .

Registration is YOUR responsibility. You need to check your STARS account for any holds (financial, medical, housing, etc.) and have them removed.

Important Dates to Remember

October 20th:
Early Warning Grades available

October 23rd:
Graduation Applications due in the
Registrar’s Office for your name to
appear in the Program

November 1st:
Last day to drop courses and to
make a total university withdrawal

November 2nd—November 20th:
Advanced Spring Registration

November 23rd:
OPEN Registration Begins

November 23rd—November 27th:
Fall Break—NO CLASSES

December 14th—December 18th:
Finals Week

December 19th: - Commencement

December 22nd:
Final Grades Available



Kibbe Research Station Classes!

Since 1966, summer classes have been offered at Kibbe Research Station. A variety of courses offered ranging from herpetology, ornithology to field mycology and aquatic/wetlands plants. There are two four-week sessions offered each summer. These classes can often be used to fulfill biology degree requirements. Please discuss with your advisor before signing up for the classes if these courses would be beneficial for course requirements.

A tentative 2010 summer Kibbe course schedule will be available in December 2009. Please see Lisa in WG 372 for course listings.

Bulletin Boards

Have you checked out the bulletin boards on the 3rd Floor yet? They are packed with lots of information for every major and class. The medical sciences bulletin board gives information for requirements for applications into schools that finish their medical degrees as well as information about job, opportunities, school open houses and scholarships. The Occupations and Opportunities bulletin board gives you vital information about new job and internship openings. As well as other opportunities such as summer classes. The CLS and Testing bulletin board provides information about our CLS major as well as information about the MCAT, GRE, OAT and DAT exams. Also outside the advisors offices, there are bulletin boards letting you know about tutoring, scholarship and all kinds of other useful information. So, if you haven't yet checked out the bulletin boards on the third floor of Waggoner, please check it out today!

Get Involved in Clubs

The Biology Department has several clubs that are related to the biological sciences. Need another reason to join? Clubs are a great way to make connections among your peers and faculty. Being involved and active in student organizations will help to build a more, well rounded, personality and will even look great on your resume!

The Sportsmen's Club is for anyone interested in hunting, fishing, trap shooting, or conservation. It is also a NRA recognized club. The Club won September Club of the Month! Congrats!

Fishing anyone? The Fishing Club is for anyone interested in any type of fishing.

Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honors Society (TriBeta) is an organization primarily for undergraduate students interested in improving the understanding of biological study and promoting research. It is an honors society that has a GPA requirement to be fully inducted.

Zoology Club is for anyone who is interested in any aspect of zoology.

If you would like information about clubs anywhere on campus or how to start a club, please visit this website:
<http://www.student.services.wiu.edu/osa/>

The New Option: Medical Sciences

It is here! The newest major option in the Biology Department at WIU is Medical Sciences. The Medical Sciences option is being offered to any current student or incoming freshmen who wish to graduate with this option. This option is very similar to our past Pre-Professional areas which this replaces.

The Medical Sciences option is offered with a choice of a psychology minor (for physical therapy, occupational therapy or optometry students) or a chemistry minor (for medical and dentistry students). A minimum GPA of 2.75 is required for enrollment.

The Medical Sciences option may not be beneficial for all current students to make the switch to this new option. The decision to change should only be made after discussing it with your academic advisor.

Visit
 Career Services
 Sherman Hall 116
 298-1838
www.careers.wiu.edu

Check out the bulletin boards on the 3rd floor of Waggoner!

Occupations and Opportunities - Career Services

Career Services is available to all WIU students, past and present. Their services include resume and cover letter writing, developing interviewing skills, career research and preparation, as well as job search options. These job search options include eRecruiting. eRecruiting offers students the ability to create their own profile and publish their resume that can be viewed by outside companies. These companies can then search for students who have posted their resumes to the site which allowing an individual to search for a job, but also to be searched by prospective employers.

They also sponsor career fairs throughout the year, along with a virtual career fair online. They have an extensive career library available for students to browse that allows for students to contact companies directly. For members of student organizations, Career Services can be contacted to set up a time when they can speak to your group.

Students may call 298-1838 or stop by Sherman Hall room 116 to set up an appointment with a Career Services advisor to get the help they need in order to better prepare themselves to make the transition from being a student to the workforce.



When we try to pick anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.— John Muir

Biology Department Website

The biology department website (www.wiu.edu/biology) is loaded with information regarding the biology department. Here you can get information on the different major options and curriculum guides as well as information about faculty members and their research interests.

Western Illinois University

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Tutoring Information

Have you ever found yourself struggling in some of your classes or having questions about a topic that **was covered in class. Don't hesitate** to seek out help. Where can you find the help you need? Easy! All professors have office hours, which are posted in their syllabus and on their office door. Stop in during this time and ask so they can help you to understand things better. If the **scheduled office hours don't correlate** with your schedule, then try setting up an appointment that is convenient for both of you. Other options include:

- Problems with biology?**
 - Go to the BAC for help with BIO 100 & 101, BOT 200 & ZOO 200 (Lab or Lecture).
 - Located in WG 104
 - Hours: M,W,F 11am-12pm & 1-5pm
 - T 11am-12pm
 - Th 3-5pm
- Need help in other courses?**
 - Contact Academic Services Olson Hall 248 at 298-1871.
- Evenings work best?**
 - Academic Services offer additional tutoring some evenings in the Malpass Library.
- Attend one of the many study skills seminars** given in Olson Hall on Mondays at 4pm. See fliers in the halls a Waggoner for dates.

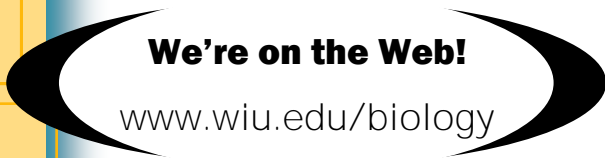
The Importance of a good GPA

Throughout our college careers many choices present themselves. From what to major in, which classes would benefit us most, what social events to attend, and even when and how to study all cross our paths on a regular basis. One of the most important decisions that college students can make is to attend all of their classes and try their best to complete all the work required with the best grades they can. Why make the choice to attend classes as scheduled and strive to do your best? Attending class is one of the best ways to ensure that you understand all the information presented. **It is hard to do well if you don't understand the material.**

Why do good GPA's matter? If you wish to continue your education beyond a bachelor's degree, your GPA can help you to get into the school of your choice. Many medical schools want a GPA of at least 3.5 and many graduate schools have a minimum requirement of 2.75. These standards vary from school to school and sometimes can be even higher.

If you plan on entering the workforce after **obtaining your bachelor's degree, some employers won't consider you as a candidate for a job with a GPA lower than 3.0** These requirements vary from employer to employer but it is often recommended that if your GPA is lower than 3.0 then it should be left off of your resume.

Bottom line? A student's GPA is important no matter what their future aspirations are. We are all here for one reason and that reason is to obtain an education that will lead us to a job that we can be proud of, enjoy and want to go to each day. Keep that in mind when one of the many daily choices crosses your path. It may be easier to blow off studying to go out with your friends but remember it is much easier to lower your GPA than it is to raise it.



Waggoner Hall 3rd Floor Advising Center
 Vicki J. Walters- Academic Advisor
 Beth Harmison-Graduate Assistant- Academic Advisor
 Megan Landes—Graduate Assistant— Academic Advisor
 Lisa Turke—Academic Advising Secretary

