Biology

Available Degrees & Emphases

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Biology
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Biology
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with Secondary Education Emphasis
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) with Secondary Education Emphasis

Who We Are
Washburn’s Biology Department consists of industrious students and a team of supportive faculty mentors driven by curiosity about the living world. Our faculty of highly trained scientists and educators are recognized experts in their fields, dedicated to the development of analytical skills, scientific knowledge and a spirit of exploration in our students. Our goal is to engage and prepare motivated students for promising careers in research, medicine, education and public service.
What Biology Is
Biology is the study of life on the cellular, developmental, molecular, organismal and ecological levels. Biologists explore a wide range of physical and organic phenomena, from the macroscopic interactions in the biosphere to the nano-scale relationships of molecules that induce cellular change. In recent history, biologists have mapped the human genome, refined antibiotics and vaccines, genetically improved crops to bolster the human food supply, recognized the need for sustainable resource use and unraveled enigmas regarding the interaction of species in a variety of ecosystems. Biology remains a driving force behind making scientifically informed decisions on how best to enhance and preserve the quality and diversity of life on Earth.

Promising Prospects in a Growing Field
Because of its incredible breadth, the field of biology offers a vast array of enriching intellectual experiences and promising careers. Among its 50 Best Careers of 2010, U.S. News & World Report included biomedical engineer, environmental science technician, environmental engineer and hydrologist, among others. And in The 10 Best Jobs of 2010, the job search website CareerCast.com listed biologist fourth, based on key job-ranking criteria of income, employment outlook, work environment, physical demands and stress.

In fact, job options are multiplying with specializations including biochemistry and molecular biology, bioinformatics, biological image analysis, biomechanics, climate science, drug design, ecological consulting, enzymatics, genome sequencing, microbiology and neurobiology.

Your Experience at Washburn
Students majoring in biology at Washburn can expect an academically rich and challenging experience. Beginning with Cellular Biology, in which the molecular roots of all life processes are established, you will progress through courses in organismal biology, microbiology, genetics and a robust selection of advanced elective courses.

Some of the many skills our graduates demonstrate include:

- An ability to understand and utilize the scientific method
- A comprehensive understanding of biological principles
- Mastery of a variety of scientific research techniques
- Well-developed analytical skills
- Well-developed oral and written communication skills

Students with dedication and a commitment to their studies will find many opportunities to expand their experience beyond the classroom through research and student teaching opportunities. Financial support for students is available through departmental scholarships, biology stockroom work, research scholarships, research grants and tutoring/teaching positions.

Students interested in biology as non-majors will find a strong selection of course offerings in general biology, environmental science, animal behavior, microbiology, health-related and other topics.

Student Organizations
- American Medical Student Association Chapter
- Biology Club
- Beta Beta Beta National Biology Honor Society Chapter
- EcoBods

What We Accomplish
Washburn’s Biology program is well known regionally for its challenging curriculum and the superior preparation of undergraduate students with post-graduate aspirations in research or professional training. Our graduates have demonstrated a stellar record of acceptance into graduate and professional schools, including a medical school acceptance rate of more than 80 percent. We have equal success in placing students in graduate research positions and in professional schools for dentistry, optometry, physician assistant, physical therapy and pharmacy.

How You Can Join Us
Washburn University offers significant opportunities for students interested in biology and/or pre-medical studies. Students with an interest in studying the field of biology can begin by contacting our department directly, or by exploring a wealth of information about our curriculum, facilities, resources and our faculty on our departmental website Washburn.edu/cas/biology.

To discuss degree programs or careers in biology, meet our faculty and staff, or tour our facilities, please visit us on the second floor of Stoffer Science Hall (ST 202) on the northeast end of campus. We are always happy to answer questions or provide details about our programs and student experiences.

If you have questions, visit Washburn.edu/cas/biology, email biology@washburn.edu or call 785.670.2077.