

Biology

Program Highlights

- 3,200 acres of natural research space
- Small classes and labs provide strong faculty interaction throughout your degree program
- Opportunities for independent research during both the summer and the academic year
- Access to eleven new or recently remodeled lab spaces
- Access to new state-of-the-art facility for bench biology
- Biology Club: The group takes field trips, goes camping, brings speakers to campus, sponsors fund raisers, organizes social events, and participates in various activities such as the campus deer count and trail building.

Program Overview

The mission of the biology department of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University is to provide an excellent undergraduate biology education in the Benedictine liberal arts tradition.

It is the department's goal that students leave our program with a heightened understanding of the unity, variety, and evolution of life, and recognition of the importance of the stewardship and preservation of biological diversity.

Outcomes for our graduates

Students who major in biology are prepared to enter graduate studies in the biological sciences; science education; and professional education in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. Biology majors and minors often go on to professional careers in law, education, business and government service, as well as to laboratory research positions in industrial and academic settings.

Career options for biology majors who do not immediately go on to graduate school are excellent. Here are a few examples of the fields they have entered:

- pharmaceutical company sales
- industry, as researchers or technicians
- state or federal scientific agencies
- biotechnology firms
- teaching
- environmental assessment

A Sample of Courses

- Plant Diversity
- Cell Biology
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Evolution
- Biochemistry

For a complete list of biology courses, please visit our website: <http://www.csbsju.edu/biology/curriculum/default.htm>

Study Abroad

The biology department highly recommends that students take advantage of our phenomenal study abroad programs. Upon deciding to study abroad, biology advisers will help you adjust your four-year graduation plan to ensure that you complete the necessary course work to graduate within four years.

Work-Study Positions in the Biology Department

Many work-study positions are available in the biology department for undergraduates including teaching assistants, lab assistants and clerical positions.

Internships:

Internships consist of off-campus study or research developed by students, under the guidance of a faculty member. Students may also design a semester-long, interdisciplinary internship that earns credit from several different departments. For example, a student recently completed an internship in neuroimmunology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Most of her efforts centered on the basic study of immunology and how it applies to neurological problems.

Past internships include:

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota Zoo
- Mayo Clinic

Faculty

Gordon Brown

Education: B.A. in Biology and Environmental Science from Colby College; Ph.D. in Ecology with a Minor in Applied Statistics from the University of Minnesota; Post-doctoral research associate at the University of California-Irvine.

Manuel Campos

Education: B.S. in Biology from Pennsylvania State University, 1986; M.S. in Physiology from Pennsylvania State University, 1989; Ph.D. in Physiology from Pennsylvania State University; Post-doctoral fellow in diabetes and hormone action at the University of Virginia.

Philip Chu

Education: B.A. from Calvin College, 1982; Ph.D. from University of Michigan, 1993.

Larry Davis

Education: B.A. in Marine Biology from Western Washington University, 1977; B.S. in Geology from Boise State University, 1980; M.S. in Geology from Washington State University, 1983; Ph.D. in Geology from Washington State University, 1987.

Carol Jansky (Lab Coordinator)

Education: B.A. in Biology and Medical Technology from the College of Saint Benedict.

Ellen Jensen

Education: B.A. in Biology with emphasis in Microbiology from St. Cloud State University; Ph.D. in Biology with emphasis in Microbiology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Cheryl Knox

Education: B.A. in Sociology and Mathematics from University of Texas-Austin; M.A. in Botany from University of Texas-Arlington; Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from Texas A&M University; Post-doctoral experience in Molecular Biology from University of Texas-Dallas, and Kansas State University.

William Lamberts

Education: B.S. in Biology with Minors in Math and Philosophy from Houghton College, Houghton, New York; Ph.D. in Ecology, University of Minnesota, 1999.

Jeanne Marie Lust

Education: B.A. in Biology from the College of Saint Benedict; Ph.D. in Zoology with an emphasis in Developmental Biology from the University of Minnesota.

Barb May

Education: B.A. from St. Olaf College; Ph.D. in Molecular Veterinary Biosciences with a concentration in Microbiology from the University of Minnesota.

David Mitchell

Education: B.S. in Biochemistry from Beloit College, 1989; Ph.D. in Biochemistry from University of Texas-Austin, 1994.

James Poff

Education: B.A. in Chemistry and M.A. in Zoology from Miami University (Ohio); Ph.D. in Entomology from Utah State University.

Mike Reagan

Education: B.A. in Biology from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.; Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics from Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri.

Charles Rodell

Education: B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse; M.S. and Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Minnesota.

Stephen Saupe

Education: B.A. in Biology from Lynchburg College; M.S. and Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Shawn Thomas

Education: B.S. from Delta State University, 1990; M.S. from Mississippi State University, 1994; Ph.D. from University of Memphis, 2002.

Marcus Webster

Education: B.S. in Biology from Lewis and Clark College; Ph.D. in Zoophysiology from Washington State University.

Elizabeth Wurdak

(Department Chair)

Education: B.A. in Biology from Boston University; Ph.D. in Biology from Dartmouth College.

“With 18 faculty members and close to 300 student majors, the CSB/SJU joint Biology Department is big and busy. Upon completion of our three semester introductory sequence, students can choose from 22 upper division courses covering different aspects of cell, organismal, evolutionary and field biology. They may also engage in independent research, pursue special topics and attend seminars sponsored by the Department. Hands-on investigations are carried out in spacious well-equipped laboratories or outdoors in forest, wetland, prairie or pond environments. At the end of the day students can relax at a Biology Club gathering or take a hike to view the swans that stopped over during spring migration.”

Elizabeth Wurdak, biology chair
