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B.S. in Biology

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Objectives

The goal of the program is to provide students a solid foundation in the biological sciences from which they can pursue studies in a particular area of interest. The curriculum is grounded in biology, chemistry and physics provided within the context of a liberal arts core. Opportunities exist for individualized instruction, mentoring and research in a broad range of sub-disciplines within the field, and the faculty is committed to imparting an understanding of the most current thinking emerging from this dynamic field.

The Biology program attracts highly motivated students from across the country. Many are part of combined-degree programs, guaranteeing them a seat in medical school, dental school, pharmacy school, or a physical therapy graduate program upon their graduation from St. Bonaventure.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

The Department of Biology has ample teaching and research space in both the new Walsh Science Center and renovated De La Roche Hall. Our instructional laboratories are designed to ensure that faculty can give each student personal attention in laboratory sections of no more than 16 students. Our research facilities are equipped with over two million dollars of up-to-date equipment that student researchers and faculty use for experimental work in a wide range of biological disciplines.

Student Research

Biology students have the opportunity to partner with faculty in research projects while earning up to six credit hours. In addition, through the Borer Fellowship, three students are selected annually to participate in summer research activities, supported by a stipend, room and board.

Curriculum

- Students are exposed to current trends in biochemistry, genomics, immunology, molecular biology, neurobiology, plant biotechnology and other fields to complement core studies in the foundations of biology.
- Students read and discuss cutting-edge biological research articles with professors and their peers.
- Secondary concentrations may be pursued in a variety of areas such as chemistry, mathematics, computer science and business administration.
- Classes and labs are small (averaging approximately 20 students) in keeping with the university's commitment to personalized education.
- Students consult with faculty in selecting programs of study, and in pursuing admission to graduate school, professional programs or careers in biology.
- Students have a choice of biology electives, so they can tailor their curriculum depending on whether they are interested in health care, research, teaching, or other careers.

Opportunities

A variety of postgraduate options are available to biology majors. Our graduates have entered careers in medicine, dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, pharmacy, research, secondary school teaching, business, and law — just to name a few.

Students may elect to pursue independent research with departmental faculty or take advantage of internships in the local community. Approximately 90 percent of SBU biology graduates advance to postgraduate study or careers in the field. In addition, over 90 percent of pre-health care students succeed in entering medical school or other health care programs.