

Admissions handout for the Biology Department

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BIOLOGY

As one of the most popular departments on campus, the Department of Biology at Rhodes offers students the opportunity to prepare for many careers related to biology. Students learn about all levels of biological life as well as modern methods of research and investigation. Past graduates have entered the fields of medicine, dentistry, higher education, physical therapy, forestry, wildlife management, laboratory technology and nursing, usually after completing postgraduate degrees.

Curriculum

Majors:

Bachelor of Science, Biology

Biology majors pursue a Bachelor of Science degree. Following the introductory series, majors choose among courses such as Cell Biology, Genetics, Animal Behavior, Virology/Immunology and Neuroscience and take cognates in math and chemistry. Biology also interfaces with several interdisciplinary programs. Students may major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology or Neuroscience and may minor in Environmental Sciences.

Research

The Department of Biology encourages students to participate in undergraduate research. Biology students have an outstanding record of achievement as evidenced by numerous awards for presentations at local and regional meetings and by joint publication with faculty in research journals. Each faculty member has an active research program that engages students. Research in Biology may satisfy upper level course credit for the major. Faculty in the department hold research grants from NSF and NIH that support undergraduate-based research programs both during the academic year and in the summer. Furthermore, a number of off-campus research opportunities exist through Rhodes' associations with institutions such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and Vanderbilt University.

Internships

With a number of general hospitals (including two of the nation's largest), a large children's hospital, a world-renowned pediatric oncology clinical and research center, specialty hospitals for pediatrics, orthopedics,

veterans affairs and psychiatric illness, Memphis provides a wealth of medical facilities to engage Rhodes students. Students may earn elective course credit for internships. Other internship opportunities are available with the Pink Palace Museum, Lichterman Nature Center, the Memphis Zoo and more.

Pre-Health Professions

For students interested in continuing on to medical school, dental school or other schools in the health professions, Rhodes provides a Health Professions Adviser to counsel and assist students in the application process. A separate admissions brochure addresses preparation for the health professions. While students seeking careers in the health professions may major in any field of study, many major in biology. The biology curriculum prepares students well for the health professions through its introductory sequence and upper level offerings.

Faculty

Biology faculty both mentor and teach 40-50 biology majors per graduating class. All classes and labs are taught by faculty.

Terry W. Hill, Professor of Biology; Ph.D., University of Florida. Specialties: *Cell biology, microbiology, biology of fungi.*

David H. Kesler, Professor of Biology; Ph.D., University of Michigan. Specialties: *Ecology, limnology, behavior, coral reef ecology.*

Gary J. Lindquister, (Chair) Professor of Biology; Ph.D., Emory University. Specialties: *Molecular biology, virology, immunology.*



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John S. Olsen, Professor of Biology, Dean of Academic Affairs for Faculty Personnel; Ph.D., University of Texas. Specialties: *Systematics, evolution, plant taxonomy, morphology.*

Jay A. Blundon, Associate Professor of Biology; Ph.D., University of Maryland. Specialties: *Animal physiology, neuroscience.*

Alan P. Jaslow, Associate Professor of Biology; Ph.D., University of Michigan. Specialties: *Vertebrate biology, functional morphology, evolution.*

Carolyn R. Jaslow, Associate Professor of Biology; Ph.D., University of Chicago. Specialties: *Biomechanics, histology, embryology, mammalogy.*

Rosanna Cappellato, Assistant Professor of Biology; Ph.D., Emory University. Specialties: *Conservation, environmental science.*

Jonathan Fitz Gerald, Assistant Professor of Biology; Ph.D., University of Chicago. Specialties: *Plant biology, development.*

Mary Miller, Assistant Professor of Biology; Ph.D., University of Virginia. Specialties: *Genetics, microbiology.*

Anthony Becker, Visiting Associate Professor of Biology; Ph.D., West Virginia University. Specialties: *Animal behavior, science education, environmental physiology.*

Sara Gremillion, Faculty Fellow; Ph.D., University of Georgia. Specialties: *Plant pathology, mycology.*

Equipment and Facilities

The Frazier Jelke Science center is home to the Department of Biology. This 37,000-square-foot, underground facility contains nine teaching laboratories, a mammal room, aquarium room, herbarium, cell culture laboratory, modern imaging center, constant temperature facilities, a transmission electron microscope, scanning electron microscope, the Biology Library, faculty offices and laboratory space

Recent grants have funded the addition of computer-based laboratories and PCR and DNA sequencing facilities. In addition, external funding has made possible the conversion of several labs and lecture halls into “smart classrooms,” with enhanced video and

computer capabilities

Graduates

36% take full time jobs

Recent graduates have held such positions as Research Assistant and Research Cryotechnologist at University of Tennessee, Lab Technician at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Environmental Manager of Lehman- Roberts Company, Physical Therapy Technician at Campbell Clinic and Operating Room Technician at Brookwood Medical Center.

54% pursue graduate degrees

Over the last five years, biology majors have experienced nearly a 90% acceptance rate into medical schools. Following graduation from Rhodes, students have gone to a wide variety of medical schools including Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt, Emory, Washington University, University of Texas, University of Tennessee-Memphis, University of Arkansas, University of Alabama-Birmingham and University of Georgia.

Graduates have pursued many other health-related postgraduate degrees in the fields of research, dentistry, physical therapy, pharmacology and nursing at institutions such as Washington University, University of South Alabama, Oklahoma State University, Miami University and William and Mary.

Other graduates attend graduate programs in fields such as Botany, Zoology, Marine Sciences and Cell Biology at such institutions as Berkeley, Yale, Michigan State University, University of Texas, Vanderbilt and Cornell.

10% take positions outside of their field of study.

For More Information

Please contact the Department of Biology at (901) 843-3555 or Admissions at 1-800-844-5969. You can also explore the Biology Department’s Web site at rhodes.edu/academics/3340.asp.