DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
175 The Science Complex North
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383
610-436-2538
Department of Biology (http://www.wcupa.edu/biology/)
Dr. Chandler (jchandler@wcupa.edu), Chairperson
Dr. Casotti (gcasotti@wcupa.edu), Assistant Chairperson
Dr. Turner (gturner@wcupa.edu), Graduate Coordinator

Programs

Master's Program
• M.S. in Biology (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/sciences-mathematics/biology/biology-ms/)

Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's
• B.S. in Biology - Integrative Biology Concentration to M.S. in Biology (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/sciences-mathematics/biology/biology-bs-integrative-concentration/)

Admissions

All applicants to one of West Chester University’s graduate programs will be held to the graduate admissions requirements (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/admissions-enrollment/graduate-admissions/). When applicable, additional requirements for admission into specific department program(s) may be listed below.

Admission Requirements for the M.S. in Biology

Applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to degree study at West Chester University. Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation as part of their application to graduate study. Applicants must include a one-page written statement that outlines their reasons for pursuing graduate study in biology and the specific area of biology in which they are interested. Applicants must fill out a supplemental application for graduate study in biology by the end of their first semester of study, available from the biology coordinator, in which they identify their preferred advisor and indicate whether they intend to pursue the regular program or the thesis option, and whether they intend to be a full-time or part-time student.

Minimum academic prerequisites for admission include two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry, one semester of physics, one semester of calculus, one course in statistics, and 17 semester credits of coursework in the biological sciences. Because of space and personnel limitations, admission of academically qualified applicants is contingent upon the availability of laboratory space, the advisor whom they identify, and the appropriateness of the student’s background to the chosen area of concentration.

The M.S. in Biology may be completed under either the regular program or the thesis option. Switching between the two options is possible early in the program, but will require the student to organize a new advisory committee, take additional courses, and spend additional time completing the program.

The supplemental application form will not be required to be admitted into the graduate program. Instead, students (thesis and regular program) will have until the end of their first semester to choose an advisor and a committee. Continued enrollment in the program is contingent upon the student finding a faculty member who is willing to act as their advisor.

Deadline Dates for Applications

For all students wishing to be considered for graduate assistantships, the deadlines are as follows:
• April 15 for the fall semester
• October 15 for the spring semester

Students who do not wish to apply for an assistantship can apply throughout the year to enter the program.

Policies

All graduate students are held to the academic policies and procedures (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/academic-policies-procedures/) outlined in the graduate catalog. Students are encouraged to review departmental handbooks for program tips, suggested course sequences, and explanations of procedures. When applicable, additional policies for specific department programs may be listed below.

General Information and Restrictions on Electives

With the prior consent of their advising committee, a thesis student may take a maximum of six semester hours at the graduate level in allied disciplines and a maximum of six biology semester hours at the 400 level. A student in the regular program may take a maximum of nine semester hours at the graduate level in allied disciplines and a maximum of six biology semester hours at the 400 level, where no 500-level component is available.

With the consent of their advising committee, any student also may transfer in six semester hours of graduate-level work from another university.

BIO 593 may not be counted towards the 30 semester hours required for graduation.

BIO 609 and BIO 610 may not be counted towards the 30 semester hours required for graduation unless a student is pursuing the thesis option.

Undergraduate Courses for Graduate Credit

The following courses are senior-level undergraduate courses that are acceptable for graduate students. Graduate students should expect to be graded by the same standards as the undergraduate students. Selection of these courses must be done with the approval of the student's advisor. (Maximum six credits for both thesis students and students in the regular program)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 412</td>
<td>Organic Evolution</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 414</td>
<td>Applied and Industrial Microbiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 421</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 428</td>
<td>Animal Histology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 435</td>
<td>Course Topics in Biology</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 436</td>
<td>Course Topics in Biology</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 437</td>
<td>Course Topics in Biology</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 448</td>
<td>Developmental Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 440</td>
<td>Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 443</td>
<td>Introduction to Gene Expression and Methodology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 452</td>
<td>Parasitology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 453</td>
<td>Marine Mammals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 454</td>
<td>Mycology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 456</td>
<td>Virology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>BIO 457</td>
<td>Functional Animal Morphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 468</td>
<td>Comparative Vertebrate Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 473</td>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 474</td>
<td>Microbial Ecology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIO 478  Plant Evolution  3
BIO 485  Systematic Botany  3

Faculty

Professors
Sharon Began (sбеган@wcupa.edu) (1992)
B.S., Kutztown University; M.S., East Tennessee State University;
Ph.D., Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Stefanie Anne Boettger (sboettger@wcupa.edu) (2008)
B.S., Aberdeen University (Scotland); Ph.D., University of Alabama at
Birmingham
Giovanni Casotti (gcasotti@wcupa.edu) (1996)
Assistant Chairperson, Biology
B.S., Hons, Ph.D., Murdoch University (Australia)
Frank E. Fish (ffish@wcupa.edu) (1980)
B.A., State University of New York at Oswego; M.S., Ph.D., Michigan
State University
Oné R. Pagán (opagan@wcupa.edu) (2005)
B.S., M.S., University of Puerto Rico; Ph.D., Cornell University
Harry Tiebout (htiebout@wcupa.edu) (1992)
B.A., University of Illinois; Ph.D., University of Florida
Gregory Turner (gturner@wcupa.edu) (2004)
Graduate Coordinator, Biology
B.S., Virginia Commonwealth University; M.A., Hunter College;
M.Ed., Columbia University; Ph.D., Fordham University

Associate Professors
Teresa Donze-Reiner (tdonze@wcupa.edu) (2015)
Director, Pre-Medical Program
Graduate Coordinator, Pre-Medical Program
B.S., University of Nebraska; Ph.D., Molecular Biology and
Microbiology University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Jennifer L. Maresh (jmaresh@wcupa.edu) (2016)
B.S., West Chester University; M.S., Duke University; Ph.D.,
University of California, Santa Cruz
John M. Pisciotta (jpisciotta@wcupa.edu) (2012)
B.A., Eckerd College; M.S., University of South Florida; Ph.D., Johns
Hopkins University
Jessica Sullivan-Brown (jsullivan@wcupa.edu) (2014)
B.S., James Madison University; Ph.D., Princeton University

Assistant Professors
Sean W Buskirk (sbuskirk@wcupa.edu) (2019)
B.S., Pennsylvania State University; Ph.D., University of Georgia
Benjamin S Chambers (bchambers@wcupa.edu) (2020)
B.S., The Pennsylvania State University; Ph.D., University of
Pennsylvania
Jennifer Chandler (jchandler@wcupa.edu) (2017)
Chairperson, Biology
B.A., Transylvania University; B.S., Northern Kentucky University;
Ph.D., West Virginia University
Megan Fork (mfork@wcupa.edu) (2021)
B.S., University of Wisconsin; M.S., Florida International University;
Ph.D., Duke University
Erin Gestl (egestl@wcupa.edu) (2007)
B.S., Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Courses