



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Why study biological sciences?

Biology is the study of life—the knowledge that is crucial for the understanding of our everyday existence. It includes the foundations of classical biology as well as advances in new technologies such as recombinant DNA, bioinformatics and proteomics. These advances make the discipline of biology dynamic and engaging.

Why study biological sciences at SXU?

The Saint Xavier biology faculty is dedicated to providing our biology majors with a curriculum that emphasizes writing skills, critical thinking and ethics. Biology courses introduce students to laboratory techniques, experimental design and statistical analysis. Developing their knowledge and skills, students enjoy the flexibility to explore broadly and focus their interests, to study abroad, to combine biology with volunteer work, and to prepare for graduate school, professional school or career paths from teaching to conservation. At Saint Xavier we teach the processes of life from organismal functioning to environmental studies not only with traditional lecture and lab format, but also with individual research opportunities.

What can you do with a degree in biological sciences?

Our alumni have achieved careers in the allied health professions, hospital administration, education, research industry, environmental studies and park services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects steady job growth in biological sciences, especially in the emerging fields of biotechnology and bioengineering.

The Undergraduate Research Program in Biology

Faculty in the biological sciences conduct active research programs in the disciplines of Animal Behavior, Animal and Plant Genetics, Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Microbiology, Reproductive Physiology.

Upper-level Biology majors may elect to participate in the Biology Department's Undergraduate Research Program as part of their capstone experience. Each year more than 35 students participate in research, working one-on-one with a faculty member on an original research project. Students also enjoy opportunities to present research findings at academic conferences.

Outside the Classroom

Internships are available at the Brookfield Zoo, Shedd Aquarium, Botanical Gardens, and Cook County Mosquito Abatement Program.

Tri Beta, the National Biological Honor Society

The SXU chapter of Tri Beta, the National Biology Honors Society, hosts numerous events annually. Tri Beta invites guest speakers from medicine, research, and industry throughout the year and sponsors a suture clinic twice a year. Tri Beta hosted the Northcentral Regional District 1 Research Conference in 2011 and 2014 and actively participates in conferences held at other universities. Tri Beta members have volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, the WTTW pledge drive, held a "Pie a Professor" event for charity and co-sponsors the "Walk for Life" annually.

Pre-Health Professions

SXU's Biological Sciences Department has partnered with the Palmer College of Chiropractic in a 3+3 articulation agreement. More information on this program and other pre-health professional opportunities is available from SXU's Pre-Health Professions Program.