



# SMSU BIOLOGY

## EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM

Southwest Minnesota State University's Biology Program is broadly based in biology, the supporting sciences and math. Within the Biology Program, a student may choose from the following three emphasis areas: biology, biology education, and Medical Laboratory Science (MLS). The biology major is designed to prepare students for a variety of careers in government and industry, to continue their study at the graduate level, and to satisfy pre-professional requirements for medicine, chiropractic, physical therapy, optometry, dentistry, occupational therapy, podiatry, veterinary and osteopathic medicine, as well as environmental fields.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Students majoring in biology have a wide range of possible scholarship programs to consider. The Science and Math Scholarship program offers financial awards to approximately 20 continuing students. Incoming students may be eligible for a number of academic and leadership scholarships through the Office of Admission. These scholarships are awarded on a student's past academic record including the ACT, class rank, GPA, and leadership potential.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates may choose from a number of careers after obtaining a B.A. or B.S. degree in biology. The biology education major, which includes course work from the Education Department, prepares the graduate for a teaching career at the secondary level. The MLS major is based on three years of coursework at SMSU and one year of clinical training at the Sanford USD Medical Center (Sioux Falls, South Dakota). Completion of the clinical internship prepares the graduate for the national licensing exam leading to a career as a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

### *Career Opportunities*

- Biochemist
- Wildlife Biologist
- Health Professions
- Genetic Engineering Research
- Ecologist
- State Parks & Recreation



## PREPARATION

Prospective biology majors should have a good background in mathematics, English, and chemistry. Clarity and confidence in writing, speaking, and in the use of mathematics are the most valuable skills.

## ACTIVITIES

Biology majors can involve themselves in many activities that help them gain experience within their field. Students have the opportunity to work as lab assistants in the Biology Lab-Prep Room, help in the greenhouse, or create educational displays in our Natural History Museum. The Biology Club has programs and activities to serve as social and academic focuses for departmental majors and pre-professional students. The acclaimed Global Studies Program and other special projects provide additional opportunities for biology majors.

## FACILITIES

The program is housed in the Science/Math Building and the Science/Technology Building. The facilities include six teaching/research laboratories, a media/solutions preparation lab, a GIS lab, greenhouse, museum, a Beckman Genetic Analysis System, and an on-campus 22-acre Wildlife Area.

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Biology Club
- Campus Greens
- Chemistry Club
- Environmental Awareness Club



80%  
OF SMSU  
BIOLOGY  
GRADUATES  
FOUND JOBS!

\$47,760\*  
Starting Salary

\*taken from the  
National Association of Colleges &  
Employers, Spring 2011.

For more career information go to  
Mustangjobs.com and click on  
"Choosing a Career/Major"

## FRESHMAN ADMISSION PROCESS

- Complete Application
- \$20 Non-refundable Application Fee
- Official High School Transcript(s)
- ACT or SAT Test Scores

## FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Rank in the upper half of graduating class  
or
- Score a composite of 21 or above on the ACT or  
990 on the SAT

## LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Liberal Education Program (LEP) at Southwest Minnesota State University provides students with the opportunity to obtain a solid, general education across the fundamental domains of human knowledge. When empowered with these ideas, facts, skills, and values, students can understand and effectively participate in the affairs of the community, nation, and wider world. The Liberal Education Program is built upon ten Student Learning Outcomes which were developed by the faculty to represent the foundation of higher education.



For more information about this major, please contact: The Biology Program at (507) 537-6178.

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