BIOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A BIOLOGY DEGREE?

A degree in Biology is commonly viewed as a stepping stone to a career in medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine, and while that's certainly true, it is so much more than that. Many Biology graduates get jobs right out of college as medical technologists, conservation biologists, research technicians, quality control specialists, food science technicians, and pharmaceutical sales representatives, among many other careers. A degree in Biology is also preparation for advanced training to become a physical therapist, physician assistant, occupational therapist, nutritionist, forensic scientist, or marine biologist. Less well-known careers such as museum curator, science writer, medical illustrator, and wildlife photographer also await biology graduates. And let us not forget one of the most rewarding careers of all: biology teacher.

BIOLOGY AT SRU

Through the Biology curriculum, students will be exposed to basic and advanced principles of molecular, cellular, organismal, and population biology. Students with a specific interest in the biological sciences can choose to concentrate their studies in a variety of fields, including anatomy, botany, cellular biology, ecology, microbiology, molecular biology, physiology, and zoology, among others. Importantly, the curriculum includes the pre-requisites for most health-related graduate programs such as PA, PT, MD, DO, and many others.

WHY CHOOSE SRU BIOLOGY?

1. **Hands-on learning:** Nearly all biology classes include a weekly lab session using modern equipment and the latest techniques. Lab sessions involve one-on-one instruction by professors.
2. **Student-faculty research:** Biology majors may collaborate with faculty on undergraduate research, a long-standing tradition in the department. After working independently on their projects, students have the opportunity to present their research at conferences and become co- authors on scientific papers.
3. **Support and guidance:** Each undergraduate is assigned an academic adviser who guides the student on which courses to take, monitors their progress toward the degree, and helps them make decisions about further education and career goals.
4. **Experienced faculty:** Our classes are taught by full-time faculty who are highly trained in a variety of disciplines in Biology. The faculty bring a wealth of scientific knowledge, research expertise, and real-world experience to each class, lab, and advising session.
5. **Excellent research facilities:** The department resides in a recently renovated building that boasts modern labs and research facilities equipped with sophisticated instruments that may be used in student-faculty research.

MAJORS

Biology (BA)
- Pre-Masters of Education

Biology (BS)
- Bioinformatics
- Conservation Biology
- Cellular & Molecular Biology
- Histotechnology
- Integrative Biology
- Medical Technology
- Pre-Health Professions
- Pre-Masters of Education

MINORS AND CERTIFICATES

- Biology
- Marine Science

ACCELERATED PROGRAMS AND AFFILIATIONS

- 3+3 Pre-Chiropractic (Logan or Palmer)*
- 4+4 Pre-Dental (LECOM or WVU)*
- 4+4 Pre-Medicine (American University of Antigua College of Medicine)
- 4+4 Pre-Osteopathy (LECOM)*
- 3+2 or Traditional Pre-Physician Assistant (SRU)*
- 3+3 or Traditional Pre-Physical Therapy (SRU)*
- 4+4 Pre-Podiatry (LECOM)*

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INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SRU Biology students have completed internships at various locations including:

- Kamin Science Center
- Butler Memorial Hospital
- Slippery Rock Veterinary Hospital
- Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
- Jennings Environmental Education Center
- North Hills Family Dental
- National Aviary
- UPMC Horizon and Magee-Womens Hospitals

CAREER OUTCOMES

While many SRU Biology majors will continue their education after earning their bachelor's degree, graduates of the department have secured careers in the following areas:

- Pediatric Physician – Janet Weis Children's Hospital
- Physician Assistant – Triangle Urological Group
- Physical Therapist – Legacy Medical Centers
- Wetland Biologist – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Chiropractor – Click Family Chiropractic
- Quality Assurance Technician – Dean Foods
- Research Technician – Johns Hopkins University
- Optometrist – Gateway Eye Associates
- High School Teacher – Grove City High School
- Medical Laboratory Scientist – Cleveland Clinic

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Beta Beta Beta
- Pre-Med Club
- Pre-PA Club
- Pre-Veterinary Club (PALS)

** SRU is required by the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement and US Department of Education to notify you whether our program meets the academic licensure/certification requirements in another state. All jurisdictions have their own requirements for licensure/ certification eligibility. SRU is approved to offer programs that may lead to licensure/ certification in Pennsylvania. We are unable to determine our program's eligibility in states other than PA. Please review the licensing board contact resource at www.sru.edu/licensure-certifcation to seek guidance on the requirements of licensure in your home state or where you would like to practice professionally. Note that state requirements are subject to change at any time and without notice.*

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Isaac Fisher, PhD – SRU class of 2012

Biomedical Researcher at Purdue University

"I owe much of my success as a scientist to the guidance I received from the supportive faculty in the Biology Department. SRU biology classes teach foundational knowledge as well as current techniques in basic biological and biomedical research. This proved extremely useful as I was able quickly become proficient in more advanced methods early in graduate school. The program is small enough to ensure students get individualized attention while large enough to offer opportunities to write grants, perform research, publish papers, and present at national conferences. Obtaining a SRU biology degree was one of my best decisions in preparing for a career in biomedical research."

Katie Skolnick, MD – SRU class of 2019

Physician, United Health Services

"The transition to medical school was seamless coming from the rigorous curriculum at SRU that allowed me to take classes in areas of study tailored to my future goals. The passionate faculty have a variety of expertise and excel in teaching students by presenting material in engaging ways. In addition to the coursework, I was fortunate to participate in many research projects and attend conferences that gave me invaluable experience and confidence to pursue further research opportunities. I can't thank the SRU Biology Department enough for the educational opportunities and the lifelong friends I made in the process!"

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