

The Biology Department at St. Ambrose offers a rigorous education with a personal touch. Our faculty members are close-knit and have a common goal for all of our students: to think like scientists. We incorporate the scientific method into our courses to provide an opportunity to develop critical thinking skills that are beneficial in any career.

Successful entry into highly sought-after programs. Our focus on written and oral communication prepares you for writing résumés, cover letters, and succeeding in interviews. The biomedical sciences concentration within our major provides the necessary coursework, skills and knowledge for successful entry into a number of highly sought-after research and medical professional programs.

Ambrose Advantage

Bigger expectations. One aspect that sets our program apart from other colleges is the use of student-driven, inquiry-based laboratory experiments. We have bigger expectations for our majors. In each of the laboratory courses within the biology major, students are expected to design and implement their own experiment. Students then analyze the data and present their findings in both written lab reports and oral PowerPoint presentations. These experiences provide students with valuable critical thinking and communication skills that can be applied to any profession.

Inquiry in Action. First-year students can choose to participate in the Inquiry in Action: Field Biology Research Learning Community that takes the inquiry-based lab to Nahant Marsh, which is one of the few remaining urban wetlands near the Mississippi River. The integrated statistics and New Student Seminar courses provide support for generating strong experiments and presentations; students present their research to the SAU community at the end of the semester.

A strong foundation in biology. Our anatomy and physiology courses use cadaver dissection-based labs; we are one of the few universities in Iowa to offer this type of dissection experience. These courses use clinical application of biological concepts to demonstrate the importance that a strong foundation in biology provides for the health professions.

Individual advising. Biology faculty members serve as academic advisers for biology majors, ensuring our students get the benefit of individual attention during advising appointments. Your adviser will help you consider career paths and determine the appropriate coursework for entering a number of different health- or research-related graduate programs.

Close, professional interaction. Our class and lab sizes are small, fostering close, professional faculty-student interactions.



This allows faculty to write strong, and more personalized, letters of recommendation than is possible for professors at larger universities. Faculty provide the necessary guidance to enable students to be successful.

Career Opportunities

There are many career opportunities for qualified biologists, including: **research and development positions; healthcare jobs in human or veterinary medicine, physician assistant, physical therapy, dentistry, pharmacy, allied health, and more; research and teaching/outreach** with colleges and universities, state and federal government, zoos and aquariums, museums, conservation agencies, and more; **non-research education** at schools, museums, zoos, national and state parks; **communication and marketing employment** in publishing, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, software, government, non-profit organizations; **legislation-related careers** in law, government, or advocacy organizations.

Career Outlook

- > Graduates who venture into medical fields with their biology degrees will experience a fast-growing job market. Jobs for physician assistants are predicted to grow at 38 percent pace and jobs for physicians and surgeons will grow at an 18 percent pace through 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. More than half of the 20 fastest growing fields are in healthcare.
- > The job outlook for veterinarians is 12 percent growth and the median salary is \$84,000.
- > The positions of dentist, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, registered nurse and physician, all careers that could begin with a biology degree, each ranked among the top 10 in the *U.S. World & News Report* list of the 100 Best Jobs of 2014.

Alumni Success Stories

- > Meghan Ward, graduated from University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014, currently employed as a DVM at Countryside Veterinary Service.
- > Laura Sass, graduated from The University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 2015, currently employed as a DDS at Community Health Care, Inc. in Iowa.
- > Ryan Taylor, earned his DO degree, currently a resident physician in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation department, Mayo Clinic.

Some students continue their graduate studies at St. Ambrose, where you can advance through to graduate programs in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, and Physician Assistant Studies. A few examples of other institutions where our biology alumni have gone for graduate studies include:

- > Dentistry—University of Iowa, Southern Illinois University, AT Still University
- > Medical (includes both MD and DO programs)—University of Iowa, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Des Moines University, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, Rocky Vista University, Marian University
- > Master of Science programs—University of Nebraska–Omaha, Georgia Southern University
- > Optometry—Illinois College of Optometry, Southern College of Optometry
- > Pharmacy—University of Iowa
- > PhD programs—University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Vanderbilt University, Ohio State University
- > Physician Assistant—Midwestern University, Des Moines University, Southern Illinois University
- > Veterinary—University of Illinois, Iowa State University

Where Some of Our Graduates Work

A few of the organizations that have employed St. Ambrose biology graduates:

- > Davenport Police Department, lead crime scene technician
- > Group O, director of corporate safety
- > MedTox Laboratories, clinical chromatography technician
- > Pioneer Hi-Bred International, research associate
- > QC Plasma Center, training and development coordinator
- > Sports Rehabilitation Physical Therapy, physical therapist
- > Unity Point Health Center, registered nurse

Your Career: Networking, Internships, Clinical Placements and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. And it is much more than that—it offers a great community to help you prepare for, or even start, your career. This area is a leader in healthcare, wellness and fitness, and provides a variety of opportunities for science and health sciences graduates.

Several major hospitals and healthcare providers need highly trained health specialists. St. Ambrose students have a range of clinical placement options without leaving the area. Organizations from the YMCA to the Rock Island Fitness & Activity Center offer a variety of opportunities for experts in wellness and fitness. Biologists and other natural science graduates play key roles in local institutions that range from the Putnam Museum of Science and History, to the Quad City Botanical Center, to waterway initiatives all along the Mississippi River.

Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563/333-6300 (toll-free 800/383-2627) or admit@sau.edu, or go online to www.sau.edu.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree. A minor in Biology is also offered. For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog.