



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

BIOLOGY

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The master of science in biology is a state-of-the-art program that furthers one's education and skills in various disciplines of biology, including ecological, organismal, microbiology, and molecular fields of study. The curriculum builds on undergraduate studies and professional experience to provide scientific knowledge and understanding, as well as advanced training in laboratory techniques. The Department of Biology emphasizes a curriculum that enables students to learn the latest scientific techniques and enhances job placement success.

Students within the M.S. program may choose either a thesis or nonthesis option. In the thesis option, elective courses typically focus on a narrow field of interest. Students also must complete a comprehensive independent research project worthy of publication in a professional journal.

The nonthesis option is designed for those who desire broad training across multiple disciplines of biology. This option requires a guided study project and successful completion of a comprehensive exam. The guided study project may involve either laboratory or library research.

THE CURRICULUM

The department offers research techniques courses in microscopy, cell and molecular biology, and computer applications in biology, as well as seminar courses in the following three areas:

- ecology, evolution, and organismal biology;
- microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics; and
- cell biology, physiology, and development.

Elective options are available in the following areas: cell and molecular biology, microbiology, microbial physiology, immunology, histology, animal and plant biology, genetics, epidemiology, endocrinology, limnology, microscopy, animal development, parasitology, and population biology.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- Small, evening classes
- Thesis and nonthesis options
- State-of-the-art equipment and facilities
- Work side-by-side with faculty
- Exciting research opportunities
- Assistantships and tuition waivers available
- Multimedia courses
- Focus on skills needed for a career or Ph.D. program
- Affordable tuition

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates from this program have gone on to either further study or employment in the scientific industry. Graduates have been accepted into Ph.D. programs, or medical, veterinary, and dental schools throughout the country. Graduates choosing to enter the work force have attained positions with such agencies as the Department of Environmental Protection, environmental consultancy firms, the pharmaceutical industry, and other private firms.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application,

including goals statement (apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad)

- Two letters of recommendation
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended

Minimum prerequisites for admission include the following: 17 credits of biology course work, two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry, one semester of physics, and one semester of calculus.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education
McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

Or contact the department:

Write: Dr. Xin Fan, Graduate Coordinator
Department of Biology
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2538

Fax: 610-436-2183

E-mail: xfan@wcupa.edu

Web: bio.wcupa.edu/biology/index.php

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/official_documents/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate

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and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees,

as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school ac-

quired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

