

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Virginia Wesleyan graduates who receive a degree in biology are making a difference in the world. Their personalized experience has earned many graduates research grants, national recognition, and the ability to work independently in their research endeavors. They are studying everything from bat ecology to arthropod evolution and medicine. Those who major in biology seek careers or graduate work in fields such as microbiology, botany, zoology and other related areas such as health professions, environmental studies, and marine biology. Biologists are teachers, environmental assessment experts, wildlife preservationists and rescue workers, eco-consultants, dentists, veterinarians and physicians.



THE FACULTY

All of the Biology courses are taught by experienced professors with diverse backgrounds who stress critical thinking and a liberal arts perspective. Classes are small and emphasize discussion, enabling students to really get to know their professors.

Dr. Victor Townsend
Program Coordinator
Teaching interests: comparative anatomy

Dr. Soraya Bartol
Teaching interests: marine biology, physiology

Dr. Deirdre Gonsalves-Jackson
Teaching interests: invertebrate zoology

Dr. Paul Ressler
Teaching interests: botany

Dr. Phil Rock
Teaching interests: genetics, microbiology

Dr. Maynard Schaus
Teaching interests: ecology

THE COLLEGE

Virginia Wesleyan College is a small, four-year liberal arts institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Home to only 1,400 students, both resident and commuter, the 300-acre campus rests on the border of Norfolk and Virginia Beach in the heart of the historic Hampton Roads area.

Virginia Wesleyan provides a prime opportunity for students to learn both in and out of the classroom, offering more than 30 majors and more than 70 clubs and organizations. Additionally, the College boasts 19 intercollegiate sports and competes in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and NCAA Division III.

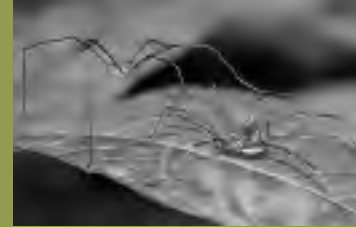
VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE
757.455.3200
www.vwc.edu

ADMISSIONS
757.455.3208
800.737.8684
admissions@vwc.edu

Dr. Victor Townsend
Program Coordinator
757.455.3392
vtownsend@vwc.edu

BIOLOGY

*The Division of Natural Sciences
and Mathematics*



THE FIELD

The study of biology is dynamic and exciting. In a technologically advancing world, students can benefit from a scientific education, especially with a focus on biology. Those students who study this field are the conservationists, physicians, and researchers who enhance our lives, protect the planet and our future.



THE PROGRAM

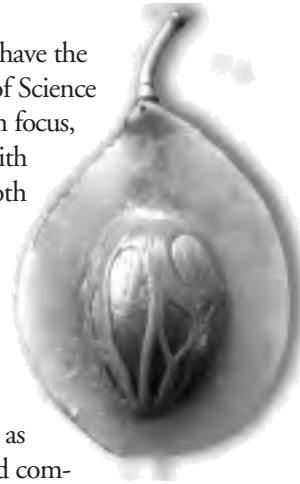
Travel opportunities, personalized one-on-one attention and undergraduate research opportunities make Virginia Wesleyan's Biology program one of the most unique academic programs at the undergraduate level. This rigorous program is a balance of classroom, laboratory and field work. Students majoring in biology may choose to earn either a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree.

The Biology program boasts full-time faculty members who teach labs and get to know students from the moment they walk into the classroom. In recent years, approximately 60 percent of graduating biology majors completed an independent undergraduate research project. Many of these students continue their education and excel in graduate programs. Students in the program not only learn to see science as a process of discovery and problem solving through scientific methodology, but also develop skills that prepare them for careers in their field of study.

The faculty members in the Biology program are committed to providing students with opportunities to study abroad through short-term courses. Previous destinations have included the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago and Central America, primarily Belize.

THE MAJOR

Students majoring in biology have the choice of earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a stronger research focus, or a Bachelor of Arts degree with more of a liberal arts focus. Both degree programs include courses in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics, with the ability for students to customize their planned program of study through a choice of unique courses such as limnology, marine biology and comparative anatomy – just to name a few.



THE MINOR

Students who wish to minor in biology must complete 19-21 credit hours. A minor in biology is an excellent choice for those students pursuing environmental science or chemistry degrees.

THE COURSES

With a 13:1 student-faculty ratio and absence of graduate teaching assistants, the classes at Virginia Wesleyan are small and interactive. Courses within the Biology program include:

- Principles of Biology I and II
- Molecular and Cell Biology
- Marine Biology
- Comparative Anatomy
- Animal Behavior
- Genetics
- Tropical Biology
- Ecology
- Histology
- Microbiology
- Comparative Physiology
- Limnology
- Taxonomy of Vascular Plants
- Invertebrate Zoology
- Plant Morphology

THE EXPERIENTIAL ASPECT

In addition to traditional coursework, students are encouraged to gain practical experience through internships and independent research projects.

Students who wish to receive a B.S. degree in biology are required to complete research during their junior or senior year. The research project typically requires extensive library work, design of the laboratory experiment or field study, collection and analysis of data, and culminates in a contributed paper presented at a local, state, regional, or national scientific conference.

Students who wish to receive a B.A. degree in biology are encouraged to conduct experimental research, but are not required to do so; however, they are required to conduct in-depth library research.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships with organizations in the Hampton Roads area such as the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center and the Virginia Zoological Park are available to students.

