Biological Sciences

Overview

As a student in biology at Connecticut College, you will enjoy engaging coursework, state-of-the-art facilities and in-depth research opportunities that will prepare you for the most competitive graduate schools, professional schools and science-related jobs. Biology core courses will provide you with skills and foundations in concepts that you will build on and further explore in a wide range of upper-level courses from molecular biology to human physiology to marine ecology. Almost every course has a hands-on lab or field component. Areas of faculty-student research include animal behavior, bioinformatics, cell biology, developmental biology, ecology, evolution, genetics, microbiology and physiology. Some faculty research is funded by government grants from the NSF and NIH as well as from private foundations.

Research Opportunities

You are encouraged to work with one of your professors on an independent research project. Many students present their research at conferences and publish papers with faculty in peer-reviewed journals. Our location in coastal New England gives you access to estuaries and salt marshes and the ability to interact with industry scientists at nearby research facilities. Many Biology students participate in the Connecticut College Summer Research Program, where they receive a stipend and free campus housing while working on independent research projects with a professor. Recent student projects have included investigating bacterial populations in a nearby salt marsh using molecular tools, mapping genes that affect flight in fruit flies, studying cancer-associated proteins involved in cell division, tracking the nesting of birds along power lines, and studying genome-wide expression during embryogenesis. Some students also work on research projects during a semester program at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Our proximity to Pfizer Central Research and to major medical centers at Yale and in Boston allow for research collaborations for faculty and students.

Facilities

We offer hands-on experiences with electron and fluorescent microscopes, digital image analysis, cell culture and real-time polymerase chain reaction in our well-equipped labs located within our newly renovated Science Center. Our equipment and spaces are complemented by an equally impressive living laboratory—the College’s 750-acre Arboretum—and the resources of our interdisciplinary Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment.
Faculty

Robert A. Askins, Professor of Biology
B.S., University of Michigan; M.S., Ph.D., University of Minnesota
Ecology, ornithology; impact of forest fragmentation on natural communities, ecology of early successional birds

Phillip T. Barnes, Associate Professor of Biology
B.S., Xavier University; Ph.D., University of Minnesota; post-doctoral fellowship, North Carolina State University
Genetics; evolution of complex quantitative traits; evolution of insect flight

Annie Bernhard, Professor of Biology
B.S., Texas A&M University; M.S., Western Washington University; Ph.D., Oregon State University; post-doctoral fellowship, University of Washington
Microbial ecology of estuaries and salt marshes

Deborah Eastman, Associate Professor of Biology, Chair of Biology Department
B.A., Grinnell College; Ph.D., University of Minnesota; post-doctoral fellowships, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Greece, and Yale University
Developmental biology; molecular biology; genetics; microbiology

Martha J. Grossel, Professor of Biology
B.S., Colorado State University; Ph.D., Tufts University School of Medicine; post-doctoral fellowship, Harvard Medical School
Molecular biology; cell biology; cancer and the cell cycle; cell cycle regulation

Kristine Hardeman, Senior Lecturer of Biology and Botany
B.S., University of Iowa; Ph.D., University of Oregon; post-doctoral fellowships, Oregon State University.
Molecular biology; plant biotechnology

Stephen H. Loomis, Joan C. Tempel 65 Professor of Biology
B.S., M.S., California Institute of Technology; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin; Ph.D., University of California
Comparative biochemistry; physiology

Kathryn McDonald ’98, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology
B.A., Connecticut College; Ph.D., Wesleyan University
Biology; neuroscience; neurobiology of learning and memory

Sardha Suryapparuma, Senior Lecturer in Biology and Botany
B.S., University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; M.S., Ph.D., University of Rhode Island; post-doctoral fellowships, University of Connecticut Health Center
Molecular biology; microbiology

Susan W. Warren, Senior Lecturer in Biology
B.S., Delaware Valley College; M.S., Adelphi University
Organismal and cell biology

Stephen Winters-Hilt, Visiting Associate Professor of Computer Science and Biology
Machine learning; bioinformatics; genomics; signal processing; pattern recognition; nanopore detector cheminformatics

Selected Courses

Cell Biology; Ecology; Genetics; Molecular Development; Marine Ecology; Freshwater Ecology; Molecular Biology; Psychopharmacology; Electron Microscopy; Neurobiology of Disease; Frontiers in Molecular Biology; Molecular Basis of Cancer; Conservation Biology and Genetics; Biochemical and Molecular Evolution; Stem Cells and Cell Signaling

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.