

Biological Sciences

Program and Application Information

Department Head:	Dr. Wendy Reed
Graduate Coordinator:	Dr. Katie Reindl
Department Location:	218 Stevens Hall
Department Phone:	(701) 231-7087
Department Email:	nds biological.sciences@nds.edu
Department Web Site:	www.ndsu.edu/biology/
Application Deadline:	Applications must be submitted by January 15 for full consideration for GTA or GRA positions.*
Degrees Offered:	M.S
English Proficiency Requirements:	TOEFL iBT 79 IELTS 6.5

*Applicants will not be considered without a department faculty member who has agreed to serve as the major advisor. For e-mail addresses for faculty members and for additional information about our programs, please visit our web site at <http://www.ndsu.edu/biology/>.

Program Description

The Department of Biological Sciences offers graduate study leading to Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Master of Science degrees are available in Biology and Environmental and Conservation Sciences.

Doctor of Philosophy degrees are available in Botany, Genomics, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Environmental and Conservation Sciences, STEM Education and Zoology. Advanced work may involve specialized training in the following areas: aquatic biology, behavior, biology education research, cell biology, comparative biochemistry and physiology, cancer biology, conservation biology, ecology, endocrinology, developmental biology, evolution, fisheries biology, molecular biology, plant biology, population biology, prairie pothole ecology, evolutionary ecology and wildlife biology.

Student research and academic programs are tailored to individual needs and interests. Interdisciplinary approaches to biological problems are encouraged.

Admission Requirements

The graduate programs in the Department of Biological Sciences are open to all qualified graduates of universities and colleges of recognized standing. To be admitted with full status to the program, the applicant must meet all Graduate School admission requirements.

Applications should be submitted directly to the Graduate School. For full consideration for GTA or GRA positions, applications must be submitted by January 15. Applicants will not be considered without a department faculty member who has agreed to serve as the major advisor. Correspondence with one or more departmental faculty members before and during the application process is essential. For email addresses for faculty members and for additional information about our programs, please visit our website at <http://www.ndsu.edu/biology/>.

Financial Assistance

Research assistantships and teaching assistantships are available. Applicants are considered on the basis of scholarship, potential to undertake advanced study and research, as well as financial need.

A student must first be accepted by the Graduate School before consideration for financial assistance. Assistantships include a waiver of tuition.

In addition to research and teaching assistantships, there are other types of financial support. A limited number of State Board of Higher Education Scholarships and other fellowships are available through the Graduate School. Outstanding scholarship and financial need are primary considerations for these fellowships. Scholarships in specific areas are also available through the Department of Biological Sciences. These are generally supplemental and do not include tuition waivers. Students are considered for these awards after enrollment, with primary considerations being scholastic performance and research at NDSU.

Research Facilities and Equipment

The Department of Biological Sciences occupies approximately 20,000 square feet of floor space in Stevens Hall for research. The NDSU Library has extensive holdings of journals, monographs, books, and other reference materials covering various fields in biology. The library offers full access to online catalogs and databases.

Faculty in the department have research programs ranging from molecular biology to ecosystem ecology and work with a wide variety of organisms across multiple levels of organization, from cellular mechanisms to ecosystem function. Modern equipment is available for conducting research in cell

and molecular biology and field ecology and behavior. The department has access to a vascular plant herbarium with 240,000 specimens emphasizing Northern Great Plains flora, a lichen herbarium consisting of about 15,000 specimens with a worldwide representation of taxa, and a vertebrate collection with approximately 10,000 specimens.

The department offers access to a range of equipment and facilities necessary for laboratory research, including greenhouses, animal rooms, growth chambers, tissue culture facilities, ultracentrifuges, spectrophotometers, electrophoresis, light microscopes, gas chromatography, GC-mass spectrometry, and high performance liquid chromatography. Facilities are available for protein and DNA sequencing, oligonucleotide synthesis, interactive laser cytometry, scanning transmission and electron microscopy, and confocal microscopy.

Students must select a major adviser prior to their arrival for graduate studies.

The Master of Science program generally requires a minimum of 24 months of full-time study, during which an overall GPA of 3.0 or better must be maintained. The Master of Science degree may be earned by either of two options. The thesis option emphasizes completion of a research project. The comprehensive study option requires more course work, and instead of conducting research and presenting a thesis, the candidate presents a paper or papers approved by the adviser to the examining committee, demonstrating ability for scholarly study and written expression. Candidates under both options must present a seminar on the thesis research or comprehensive study, and must pass an oral examination.

The Ph.D. program generally requires a minimum of 36 months of full-time study, during which an overall GPA of 3.0 or better must be maintained. Candidates for the Ph.D. are required to take a preliminary written and oral examination directed to academic subject matter and a final defense of the dissertation.

Laura Aldrich-Wolfe, Ph.D.

Cornell University, 2006

Research Interests: Community ecology, mycorrhiza and plant-fungal interactions

Julia H. Bowsher, Ph.D.

Duke University, 2007

Research Interests: Evolutionary and Developmental Biology of Insects

Malcolm G. Butler, Ph.D.

University of Michigan, 1980

Research Interests: Aquatic Ecology, Limnology, Fisheries, Water Quality, Wildlife Management

Mark E. Clark, Ph.D.

University of Tennessee, 1996

Research Interests: Fish and Wildlife Ecology, Population Biology, Ecological Modeling, Quantitative Ecology

Ned A. Dochtermann, Ph.D.

University of Nevada, 2009

Research Interests: Evolutionary and Behavioral Ecology

Erin H. Gillam, Ph.D.

University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 2007

Research Interests: Evolution and Behavioral Function of Communication Signals Using Bats as a Model

Kendra J. Greenlee, Ph.D.

Arizona State University, 2004

Research Interests: Comparative Physiology, Insect Respiration and Immunology

Timothy J. Greives, Ph.D.

Indiana University, 2009

Research Interests: Hormones and Behavior, Seasonality, Biological Rhythms, Reproductive Eco-physiology

Jill Hamilton, Ph.D.

University of British Columbia, 2012

Research Interests: Plant Evolutionary Genomics

Britt Heidinger, Ph.D.

Indiana University, 2007

Research Interests: Physiological Ecology, Senescence, Stress Physiology

Angela Hodgson, Ph.D.

University of Minnesota, 2010

Research Interests: Ecosystem Biology and Wildlife Conservation Biology

Donna L. Jacob, Ph.D.

University College Dublin, 2003
 Research Interests: Wetland Science, Biogeochemistry

Jennifer L. Momsen, Ph.D.
 Rutgers, 2007
 Research Interests: Biology Education at the Undergraduate Level

Lisa M. Montplaisir, Ph.D.
 University of Arizona, 2003
 Research Interests: Science Education, Teaching and Learning, Curriculum Development

Keith Murphy, Ph.D.
 Louisiana State University, 1989
 Research Interests: Hereditary Diseases of the Domestic Dog

Marinus L. Otte, Ph.D.
 Vrije Universiteit, 1991
 Research Interests: Wetland Science, Biogeochemistry, Plant Ecophysiology

Wendy L. Reed, Ph.D.
 Iowa State University, 2000
 Research Interests: Physiological Ecology, Evolution of Life Histories, Maternal Effects

Katie M. Reindl, Ph.D.
 North Dakota State University, 2006
 Research Interests: Cancer Cell Biology, Identification and Validation of New Drug Targets

Matthew Smith, Ph.D.
 University of Arkansas, 2012
 Research Interests: Patterns of Phenotypic Variation in Natural Populations

Craig A. Stockwell, Ph.D.
 University of Nevada, 1995
 Research Interests: Evolutionary Ecology of Vertebrate Populations, Conservation Biology, Fisheries Biology

Jon Sweetman

Steven E. Travers, Ph.D.
 University of California-Santa Barbara, 1998
 Research Interests:
 Plant Evolutionary Ecology

Emeritus

William J. Bleier, Ph.D.
 Texas Tech University, 1975
 Research Interests: Blackbirds, Animal Depredation, Avian Ecology

Gary K. Clambey, Ph.D.
 Iowa State University, 1975
 Research Interests: Ecology and Biogeography, Environmental Analysis and Planning, Structure Function Relations in Midwestern Ecosystems, Human Ecology

Theodore L. Esslinger, Ph.D.
 Duke University, 1974
 Research Interests: Lichenology; Taxonomy, Chemosystematics, and Floristics of Lichens; Emphasis on the Parmeliaceae and Physciaceae

James W. Grier, Ph.D.
 Cornell University, 1975
 Research Interests: Eagles and Other Birds of Prey, Herpetology, Aquatic Organisms, Fossils, Animal Population Dynamics, Habitat Ecology

Gary L. Nuechterlein, Ph.D.
 University of Minnesota, 1980
 Research Interests: Behavioral Ecology of Birds; Wildlife Ecology, Particularly of Nongame Species

Adjunct

Michael J. Anteau, Ph.D.

Louisiana State University, 2006

Ned H. Euliss, Jr., Ph.D.

Oregon State University, 1989

Mark A. Hanson, Ph.D.

North Dakota State University, 1990

Douglas H. Johnson, Ph.D.

North Dakota State University, 1986

George M. Linz, Ph.D.

North Dakota State University, 1982

Daniel C. McEwen, Ph.D.

North Dakota State University, 2008

David M. Mushet, Ph.D.

North Dakota State University, 2010

Marsha A. Sovada, Ph.D.

North Dakota State University, 1993

Steve K. Windels, Ph.D.

Michigan Technological University, 2008

Brian Wisenden, Ph.D.

University of Western Ontario, 1993