Zoology

Zoology is the study of animals. Zoologists, those who study animals, conduct their studies from a range of biological viewpoints. Included are anatomy, physiology, behavior, genetics, evolution, taxonomy and ecology. A balanced education in zoology includes courses and studies that represent this diversity of viewpoints. As a result, graduates appreciate the diversity of animals, their evolution and the structural and functional characteristics that enable them to survive and persist within their environments. This appreciation is a solid foundation for further studies and careers in biology, medicine, biotechnology and natural resource management.

Career Opportunities

The zoology degree may be viewed as a liberal arts degree and as such may lead to almost any career. Numerous employment opportunities are available to our graduates at the bachelor, master's and doctoral levels. Our graduates may become physicians, dentists, veterinarians or other health professionals such as medical technologists, physical therapists or pharmacists. They may choose employment in academia, government, private industry or be self-employed.

Many graduates pursue careers in biological research ranging from molecular biology to environmental science or ecology. The curriculum is flexible enough to accommodate minors in other sciences, the humanities, business or other fields or even double majors. For example, some zoology majors participate in the Jefferson Scholars program, with a double major in zoology and a nonscience area.

Course Work/Curriculum

Students follow a general curriculum of courses including chemistry, math, physics, social sciences, humanities and English in addition to certain required core courses. Credit for 125 semester hours is required for graduation. The zoology degree includes pre-medical/pre-dental, pre-optometry, pre-veterinary and general zoology curricular options.

Students must complete a core of courses that provide knowledge in the areas of cellular and molecular biology, embryonic development, animal diversity and evolution, and the relationship of animals to their environment. Flexibility in the choice of upper-level electives allows specialization tailored to each individual.

Zoology Honors Curriculum

The honors program was established primarily for students at the junior and senior levels who wish to participate in personal research, investigate a particular problem or assist in a senior level laboratory course.

Pre-professional Curriculum

The Department of Zoology has several curricular options that give excellent preparation for professional careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry and allied health careers such as physical therapy, medical technology and pharmacy. Options are also available that prepare students for opportunities in government and industry and for graduate study.

Graduate Study

The Department of Zoology offers graduate programs leading to master's degrees in Zoology and in Fisheries and Wildlife and to a doctor of philosophy degree in Zoology. Candidates for graduate study must have a bachelor's degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (a B average) from an accredited college or university, have taken the Graduate Record Exam and have a strong background in the physical and biological sciences. Many graduate students complete minors in areas such as statistics and biomathematics.

Research

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences permits students to take a special course called ZO 492, External Learning Experience. This course is adapted from experiences away from the main
campus, allowing students to earn credit hours in a unique situation using facilities and resources that are not available on campus.

Students who are interested in working on one of the research projects being conducted by the faculty and staff in the Department of Zoology may do so by signing up for a variable amount of credit (from one to three hours). Research areas such as molecular biology, cell biology, developmental biology, neurobiology, reproductive biology, circadian rhythms, ecology and animal behavior are available to students.

Advising
The department considers faculty advising for the student one of its most important objectives. Pre-veterinary, pre-medical and pre-dental students are assigned to a faculty member who specializes in these areas. Students are advised in the selection of courses, career choices and opportunities available for employment or further study in graduate or professional school.

Career Services
In addition to faculty advisers who are available to provide information about career and employment opportunities, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Career Services Office is available to assist students and alumni. The Career Services Office provides students with information about summer internships and co-op opportunities in their career fields and assists them in applying for such positions. The Career Services Office also helps students write resumes and polish interview skills. The office arranges on-campus interviews for prospective graduates and publicizes employment opportunities through e-mail and the Web. Alumni are also able to take advantage of these services and are informed about employment prospects through a web site.

For more information:

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<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Programs</th>
<th>Graduate Programs</th>
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Or visit us on the Web at http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/zoology/