

Biology at Augustana College

Why study biology?

Biology graduates often pursue careers in environmental organizations, genetics, public health and health care, immunology, industry, research or teaching. Biology is the foundation for study in the health fields.

Augustana offers pre-professional programs in medicine, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, physician assistant, occupational therapy, optometry and dentistry. About half of Augustana biology majors go to graduate school for biology, genetics and ecology, or enter medical, dental, nursing or veterinarian programs.

Why Augustana?

The 16 biology faculty members have diverse areas of specialization and interests that touch on all major fields of biology.

Augustana's international study terms often include biology work, such as ethnozoology in Latin America, conservation in Ghana, public health in Nicaragua and health care internships in Australia.

Special resources include a human cadaver lab on campus, and Augustana is one of very few undergraduate institutions to offer this learning experience.

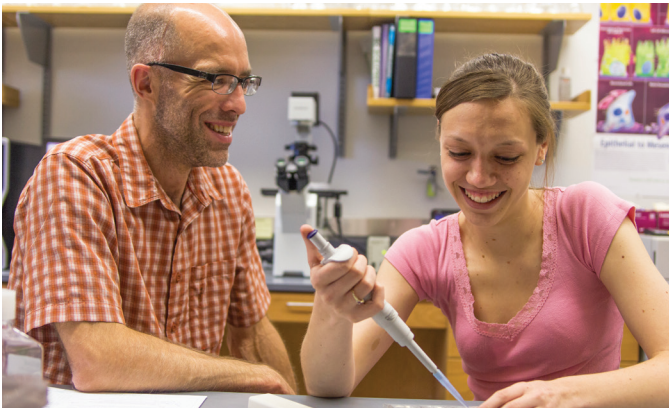
The college also owns three environmental field stations totaling more than 600 acres, for student and faculty research, and courses in local flora, entomology, aquatic biology and environmental sampling for vertebrates.

Careers and internships

Every year, select biology majors participate in Augustana's summer Texas Medical Center Internship Program in Houston. Augustana is one of a handful of colleges and universities invited to participate in this prestigious program. Other biology students intern at a great variety of locations nationwide.

Graduates are at the universities and medical schools of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California State, Southern Illinois, Western Illinois, Northwestern and many more. Others go straight into their careers at hospitals, industry or government. Examples include Eli Lilly, Abbott Laboratories, Amoco, the Shedd Aquarium, the FBI and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Augustana College



The **biology major** is 31 credits, and the **biology minor** is 19 credits. Along with biology courses, both the major and minor include courses in chemistry, plus math and physics for majors who intend to pursue graduate studies.

Augustana also offers a 31-credit **biology teaching major** for students who plan to teach biology in secondary schools. These students take supplemental courses in astronomy, chemistry, geography, geology and physics, plus the secondary education sequence.

For details and course descriptions, see augustana.edu/catalog.

What alumni say

My peak experience was definitely my zookeeping internship at a zoo in California during winter term of my senior year. I got hands-on keeping experience with new species in a zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. I even got hired as a temporary keeper during my internship! This experience helped me discover exactly where I want to be after graduation.

As a freshman, I also didn't realize the value of a liberal arts education—but now I know it is vital in becoming the well-rounded individual today's employers are looking for.

Emma Baldwin '13, biology and Spanish

Working at The Living Desert Zoo in southern California after completing an internship there

[At Augustana] I had too many peak experiences to just name one. I played a concert in Lucca, Italy, with the Symphonic Band and moved the audience to tears; I saw a live birth of twin calves during a job-shadowing experience my advisor helped set up; and I was finally able to match my 8K times from my first cross-country season after two years of injuries. You could say my entire time at Augustana was a peak experience.

I have learned that I am actually more confident than I often give myself credit for, and I'm very capable of adapting to completely different situations. With the liberal arts education here, I have had to take many classes on different subjects with very different teaching styles. I was forced to tweak my study habits accordingly, and was able to do so successfully.

Scott Wood '11, biology/pre-veterinary medicine

Attending the College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Missouri



I chose Augustana College because of its emphasis on the liberal arts. I knew that at Augie I could pursue interests and studies in disciplines besides my major.

Before moving to the United States, my family spent several years in Guam, where I became interested in cultural studies. During high school, I was introduced to the biological sciences, and I have been pursuing both interests ever since.

Now I am pursuing a course of study in biological anthropology at my dream school. I couldn't ask for more.

Kai Yin (Queenie) Ho '13, anthropology and biology

Studying biological anthropology at St. John's College, University of Cambridge, after receiving the \$50,000 Davies-Jackson Scholarship

I actually was set on being a doctor when I came to Augustana. That is one of the many advantages of obtaining a liberal arts education; it allows you to explore different vocational venues. I eventually realized that I could do great things with my talents. That is why I decided to pursue a career in public health.

My experience in Nicaragua on a service medical trip has been by far the most life-changing. On this trip, I would do public health home visits in a few of the impoverished rural towns that surrounded the bigger cities of Nicaragua. In my last home visit, I met the most charismatic 96-year-old woman, and before I left, she said to me, 'Thank you for not forgetting about us.' A 96-year-old woman who has numerous chronic diseases and lives in a house made out of palm leaves and scrap metal was thanking me for taking a five-minute ride in an air-conditioned bus to visit her. Her gratitude will serve as one of my many motivators to continue a career in public health.

Lizeth Galarza '11, biology, minor in sociology

Quality Lab Associate at Baxter Healthcare, Rockford, Ill.

