

About Us



Degrees Offered:

- B.A. Biology
- B.S. Biology
 - Terrestrial & Freshwater option
- B.S. Marine Biology
 - Marine Conservation option
- M.S. Marine Biology
- Ph.D. Marine Biology

The University of North Carolina Wilmington is a leading university in the Southern region. A growing university of more than 13,000 students, UNCW offers excellent curricula and student resources in biology and marine biology.

The Department of Biology and Marine Biology offers five undergraduate degree programs to meet students' needs. The B.S. Biology degree provides the background needed for further education in graduate or professional schools as well as jobs at the baccalaureate level. This program supports plans for pre-health professionals, pre-veterinary science, conservation biology, and molecular or clinical interests. The B.S. Marine Biology degree provides a firm foundation in the biological sciences with an emphasis on marine biology, preparing the student for graduate study in marine biology or for jobs at the baccalaureate level. This program makes full use of the natural laboratories provided by nearby ocean, marsh, tidal flat and estuarine habitats surrounding the campus. The B.A. Biology degree is a flexible program that can be designed by the student and advisor to meet personal educational goals or specific licensure requirements on both the undergraduate/graduate level.

Classroom and laboratory instruction is supplemented by field trips to adjacent oceanic, estuarine, and terrestrial laboratories. The department maintains a

modern 2,250 square-foot greenhouse, extensive plant and animal collections, and a state-of-the-art microscopy center. Additionally, UNCW manages several terrestrial and marine areas used for classroom activities and the Center for Marine Science providing access and support for marine and estuarine work.

Opportunities for Involvement in Research

A major emphasis of the programs offered by the Department of Biology and Marine Biology at UNCW is student involvement in research activities. Teaching and research with well-planned laboratory and field studies create opportunities for students to learn and to practice skills necessary for professional development in the sciences. Our faculty encourage student participation in research through a variety of means, including honors work, directed independent research projects, internships, and student research assistantships. These research activities have resulted in opportunities for students to present at scientific meetings and to contribute with faculty to research publications as well as participate in faculty-led, cutting edge research projects.



Careers in Biology and Marine Biology

A degree in biology or marine biology provides the background for entrance into many exciting careers in the biological sciences, including biomedical professions, teaching, environmental work, work with agencies, both public and private, as well as research and collaboration in the fields within the discipline. Many of our graduates become leaders and innovators working in exciting careers for state or federal agencies, colleges or universities, biomedical or veterinary firms, private companies, or conservation organizations. Teaching in public schools or at the college level is a critical need in a knowledge-based economy and a career pursued by many of our graduates. Students in the department have access to a full-time departmental advisor as well as faculty advisors for marine and environmental sciences, medical/professional schools, pre-veterinarian careers, and other biological disciplines.



Requirements for Admission to a Major in Biology or Marine Biology

A student may declare a major in biology or marine biology after completing BIO 201 and BIO 202, or equivalent courses, with a grade of "C" (2.00) or better in both courses, and the completion of a minimum of 24 semester hours of credit. Transfer students wishing to declare a major in biology or marine biology must meet admission requirements, which are: completion of 24 semester credit hours from an accredited four-year college or university and a 2.00 grade point average in two biology courses with labs, preferably BIO 201 and BIO 202, or equivalents; or, completion of an associate degree from an accredited two-year college and a 2.00 grade point average in two biology courses with labs. Students who apply to the Department of Biology and Marine Biology and do not meet the admission requirements will be considered pre-majors. All students who desire a degree in biology or marine biology must meet the admissions requirements and declare a major to be eligible to graduate.



Facilities

The Department of Biology and Marine Biology is located on campus in Dobo Hall and Friday Hall, and off-campus at the Center for Marine Science, which house research and teaching facilities. The university's laboratories are equipped to enable study in disciplines as diverse as molecular and cellular biology, light and electron microscopy, organismal biology, behavior, and ecology.

The Oriole Burevitch Laboratory was constructed in 2011 to support our marine mammal stranding program and our many field-based teaching and research programs. This building was explicitly designed to provide on campus space for undergraduate students to participate in field oriented research.

In addition to faculty research laboratories, the nearby Center for Marine Science houses a wet lab with running seawater, outside tank area, and shellfish research area, machine shop, SCUBA facilities, and a pier with docking facilities on the Intracoastal Waterway.

UNCW manages several research and teaching areas for undergraduate and graduate study, short-term and long-term ecological research, and educational services for the people of the region and the state. These properties include:

- The Ev-Henwood Nature Preserve, a 174 acre tract of open field, upland forests, bottomland hardwood stands, swamp forest, and pond and creek systems.
- The UNCW Long Term Ecosystem Reserve, a 750 acre tract of undisturbed bottomland hardwood forest bordering the NE Cape Fear River.
- The Herbert Bluethenthal Wildflower Preserve, a nearly 10 acre undisturbed botanical garden of native plants at the heart of the UNCW campus.
- Tidal Shellfish Research Area, an intertidal area located on Masonboro Sound that harbors a great diversity of marine life.

UNCW is committed to and will provide equal educational employment opportunity. Questions regarding program access may be directed to Compliance Officer, UNCW Chancellor's Office, 910-962-3000, FAX 910-962-3483.



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University of North Carolina Wilmington



Department of Biology and Marine Biology

Undergraduate Programs

