



## Health and Sciences Division

# Biology

Mount Mary College's bachelor of science degree in Biology is designed to prepare students for entry-level employment or graduate studies in the life sciences. The program combines a broad background in biology with a solid foundation in the liberal arts. Program graduates are well prepared for direct entry into the job market or into graduate biology programs and professional schools (medical, dental, osteopathic medicine and veterinary science).

The Biology program emphasizes data analysis and problem solving, along with broad scientific literacy, basic biological laboratory techniques and computer applications.

### One major, three options

A Biology degree from Mount Mary College offers a broad choice of career paths. Three distinct course sequences help direct students toward their future career goals. Each sequence has recommended courses, designed to meet a student's individual career aspirations.

#### General sequence

prepares students for entry-level positions after graduation

#### Health Sciences sequence

prepares students for professional and post-baccalaureate studies

#### Education sequence

prepares students for teaching biology at the middle or secondary level

### Why Mount Mary?

Mount Mary College's biology major provides a strong undergraduate science foundation. As part of their coursework students:

- complete undergraduate research projects
- work side-by-side with faculty members
- learn laboratory techniques
- experience small class sizes, similar to the feel of professional schools
- develop creative and critical thinking skills
- develop strong leadership skills



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#### Sample Biology courses

- Genetics
- Human Physiology
- Microbiology
- Zoology
- Environmental Science
- Ecology
- Molecular Techniques

#### Did you know?

Mount Mary also offers minors in:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Studies

#### Employment outlook

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, a bachelor's degree is adequate preparation for employment as a research technician in the biological or related sciences. A Ph.D. degree is usually required for independent research positions.

[www.mtmary.edu](http://www.mtmary.edu) 800-321-6265

# Biology

### Problem-based learning

Mount Mary students, especially those studying natural sciences, benefit from an innovative approach to learning called problem-based learning (PBL).

Problem-based learning encourages students to make real-world connections, in addition to mastering scientific content. Lectures and laboratory exercises become more relevant, with problem scenarios helping to drive the process of learning.

In problem-based learning acquisition of new knowledge is geared toward finding a workable solution to the problem. Once assembled, the new information is synthesized, analyzed, interpreted and applied to yield a solution to the problem.

The characteristics of PBL include:

- learning is student-centered, with teachers acting as facilitators or guides
- students work cooperatively in small groups
- critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills are enhanced
- real-world problem scenarios are the focus and stimulus for learning, encouraging students to propose their own possible solutions
- problem solving exercises are followed by performance-based assessment

### State-of-the-art facilities

In 2004, Mount Mary College opened the state-of-the-art Gerhardinger Center to house all science-related fields. The new facilities create a perfect environment for active learning in the natural sciences. Each classroom is designed so professors can combine lecture and laboratory components, creating a smooth transition from learning about a topic to hands-on experimentation.

### Internships

Biology students are not required to complete an internship to graduate. However, many students, especially those planning to pursue advanced degrees, have found internships rewarding and beneficial.

Mount Mary students have completed internships at:

- food technology laboratories
- research and development microbiology laboratories
- The Milwaukee County Zoo
- veterinary clinics
- The Milwaukee County Museum



### Faculty

Mount Mary's student-centered science faculty brings real-world experience to the classroom and is energized by the success of their students. With personal attention from such a caring faculty, Mount Mary students are academically prepared for successful careers and personally inspired with "can do" attitudes.

- Patricia B. Ahrens, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
Chair of the Sciences Department  
Chair of the Health and Sciences Division
- Colleen Conway, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
- Lynn M. Diener, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Biology
- Steven Levsen, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Director of the Chemistry Program
- Maureen Leonard, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Biology
- S. Patricia Ann Obremski, SSND, M.S.  
Associate Professor of Physics

### Scholarship assistance

In addition to regular financial aid offerings, the Ruth Debelack Memorial Scholarship provides financial assistance to students who plan to major in biology. This renewable scholarship is designed to support students who might not be able to attend Mount Mary because of their financial circumstances.

Details about this departmental scholarship are available by contacting the Division Chair.

# Biology

## Beta Beta Beta National Honor Society

Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) is a national honor society founded in 1922 for undergraduate students. This honor society encourages education and professional development in the biological sciences.

Mount Mary's Theta Alpha Chapter of Beta Beta Beta offers membership at either the local or national level. Members frequently attend national and regional conventions that provide students the opportunity to present the results of their research projects.

## Entrance exams for post-graduate education

Through rigorous coursework, hands-on learning opportunities and test preparation, Mount Mary Biology graduates are well prepared for the following pre-professional exams:

- Medical school (for both MD and DO programs): Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Dental school: Dental Admission Test (DAT)
- Veterinary school: Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or another exam designated by the school of choice

## Advanced Study

Mount Mary science graduates have gone to excel at professional and graduate schools within Wisconsin and throughout the country. Examples of post-baccalaureate schools our graduates have attended include:

- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Southern Illinois University
- University of Louisville
- University of South Carolina
- University of Wisconsin-Madison



### More on the Web

Please visit [www.mtmary.edu/dept\\_biology.htm](http://www.mtmary.edu/dept_biology.htm) for additional information about Mount Mary's Biology major and other Health Sciences offerings, including:

- Chemistry
- Environmental Studies
- Radiologic Technology
- Occupational Therapy
- Nursing

### About Mount Mary College

Discover what the more than 1,800 current Mount Mary graduate and undergraduate students already know. Mount Mary offers an engaging and transformational education. Here students explore and expand their hopes and dreams. We invite you to be one of them.

Mount Mary's residential campus is home to a diverse student body. Be a part of our gorgeous suburban campus, just 20 minutes from downtown Milwaukee.

For over 90 years Mount Mary College has been educating women in the Catholic tradition – we are committed to your success. More than 90% of our students receive scholarships and other types of financial assistance. A Mount Mary education is affordable for you.

See how Mount Mary's strong academics, our small class sizes, our safe and vibrant campus and our student organizations and leadership opportunities will help you achieve your personal and career goals. Contact the Admission Office at 800-321-6265 or [admiss@mtmary.edu](mailto:admiss@mtmary.edu).

