Biology

Delve deeper into the natural world as you explore living systems, both human and non-human, in the lab and the field.

Work closely with Christian professors who introduce you to creative and rigorous scientific investigation in a classroom that includes the mountains, the coast and the Channel Islands. Through coursework and independent research, you learn laboratory techniques and field methods. You may even conduct advanced research with faculty and fellow students. Professors integrate biology and faith and discuss issues related to science, ethics and culture. Rigorous study combined with personal attention prepares you for rewarding and challenging work in the lab and the environmental, biotech and health fields.

SELECTED COURSES

- Physiology
- Marine Biology
- Behavioral Ecology
- Biology and Faith
- Molecular Biology
- Genomics and Bioinformatics

CAREER PATHS

- Teaching (elementary, secondary and college)
- Health sciences (M.D., P.A., nurse practitioner, D.O., dentist, chiropractor)
- Public health (epidemiology, policy, education, research)
- Forensics
- National Park Service (park ranger, fish and wildlife biologist)
- Ecology and conservation biology
- Biotechnology
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

STEVE JULIO, PH.D.
His team’s discovery and characterization of a genetic switch in the bacteria that causes whooping cough may lead to better therapies.

JEFF SCHLOSS, PH.D.
He is an internationally known expert on the biology of love and religious belief.

YI-FAN LU, PH.D.
He is a researcher who has contributed to Zika antiviral drug development and modeled neurological diseases.

EILEEN MACMAHON MCQUADE, PH.D.
A unique strain of arthritic mice help her study autoimmune disorders. She is working full time in the Provost’s Office with special responsibilities as associate dean of the faculty.

BETH HORVATH, M.S.
She is an invertebrate zoologist working with Eastern Pacific gorgonian corals who loves spending time exploring tide pools up and down the West Coast.

ALUMNI

Grace Teranishi ’18 worked for California Fish and Game after graduating from Westmont and is working on a Masters degree through Moss Landing Marine Labs.

Rachel Maragliano ’17 earned a Master of Science degree in forensic science and works as a criminologist for the California Department of Justice.

Matthew Lee ’19 has been accepted into a master’s program in education with an emphasis on science teaching geared to school-age children.

Amanda “Mandi” Chamberlin ’15 has completed her Doctor of Optometry program at the University of Houston.

OPPORTUNITIES OFF CAMPUS

- Westmont’s Global Health Uganda
- Organization for Tropical Studies: Tropical Diseases, Environmental Change and Human Health, Costa Rica
- Creation Care Studies Program, Belize or New Zealand
- Creation Care Studies Program, Au Sable Institute for Environmental Studies, Michigan or Washington

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