

Pre-Veterinary Sciences

To pursue graduate study in veterinary school, or in any of the health professions, you must have a strong undergraduate background in science. At Illinois Wesleyan, we will provide you with this background, along with challenging coursework in the liberal arts; close, personal instruction from a well-qualified faculty; and hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment. Additionally, our science faculty will give you the help and support you need to enter the professional program of your choice.

Why Pre-Veterinary Sciences at Illinois Wesleyan?

- Active involvement in every aspect of your education, including frequent in-class discussions and the ability to work with top-quality scientific equipment in the labs.
- The opportunity to pursue independent research projects under the supervision of Ph.D. professors.
- Integration of courses in liberal arts disciplines including ethics, literature, foreign language and fine arts, enabling you to grasp the different ethical and moral perspectives a scientist needs.
- The opportunity to utilize your knowledge outside the classroom and beyond the campus walls through involvement in the IWU Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club.
- Veterinary internships give you a practical introduction to the duties and demands of a veterinary career by allowing you to work closely with a local veterinarian. You will follow your mentor throughout his or her workday and have the opportunity to observe everything from patient examinations to surgery. Additional opportunities include working at various zoos or conducting research related to the veterinary sciences.
- When applying to veterinary school, you will work closely with faculty members to obtain letters of recommendation. As part of this process, you will be interviewed by faculty members so that the letters of evaluation can be extremely personalized, incorporating interviewer comments.
- The Hart Career Center houses materials describing a range of programs and careers in the veterinary sciences, as well as information on the registration dates for the GRE and VCAT.

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A Sampling of Courses Related to Pre-Veterinary Sciences:

General Biology
General Chemistry
Biochemistry
Organic Chemistry
Inorganic Chemistry
General Physics
Chordate Comparative Anatomy
Invertebrate Zoology
Cellular and Molecular Biology
Ecology
Molecular Genetics
Developmental Biology
Plant and Fungal Diversity
Parasitology
Animal Physiology
Genetics
Biostatistics
Histology

Recent Internships Include:

Brookfield Zoo
Miller Park Zoo (Bloomington)
Field Museum (zoology internship)
Veterinary offices
Interquest Detection Canines
University of Florida (research)
University of New Hampshire (research)
Primate center in South Africa



“The Illinois Wesleyan pre-veterinary program offers several advantages: courses that are taught by professors emphasizing problem-solving and critical

thinking skills; numerous opportunities for laboratory and field experiences; and close interaction among students and between students and faculty, which is critical for the development of strong candidates for admission into veterinary schools. Our faculty will assist you in all aspects of applying to veterinary schools, including advising, in-depth interviews and the writing of thoughtful, thorough letters of evaluation. As a result, we have had great success in placing our students into veterinary schools.”

Learning from a Quality Faculty

- **Elizabeth (Susie) Balser**, *Associate Professor of Biology*
Ph.D. — Clemson University
Research interests focus on the biology of invertebrate animals; has training in morphology, physiology and evolution of invertebrate animals; has affiliations at the Smithsonian Marine Station and the University of Washington Marine Lab.
- **Given Harper**, *Professor of Biology*
Ph.D. — Illinois State University
Conducts research on pesticide contamination of birds and wildlife and has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation.
- **William Jaeckle**, *Associate Professor of Biology*
Ph.D. — University of Southern California
Research projects examine aspects of the reproduction, life history, development and ecology of invertebrate animals.
- **Edgar Lehr**, *Assistant Professor of Biology*
Ph.D. — Goethe University
Research is devoted to the biodiversity of amphibians and reptiles in Peru and Rwanda.
- **Brian Walter**, *Assistant Professor of Biology*
Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Researches the developmental mechanisms that produce morphological variations between groups of fishes.

Putting Your Learning into Practice

- Students have recently completed projects on topics such as “Levels of Organochlorine Compounds and Heavy Metals in North American Grey Wolves” and “The Effect of Predominant Light on Coloration in the Chinese Praying Mantis.”
- Our pre-veterinary graduates have recently been accepted by some of the top veterinary institutions in the country, including Colorado State University, Tufts University, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- One alumnus of note is William A. Brown, CEO of Veterinary Cardiology Consultants, a cardiology-only veterinary practice in Novi, Mich. Brown currently serves or has served as a consultant for The Detroit Zoological Park, Leader Dogs, Paws With A Cause, Bayer AG, Merck and Synbiotics.

Dr. David Bollivar

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