Biology

Chair
• Tina L. Tootle

Undergraduate major: biology (BA, BS)
Undergraduate minor: biology
Graduate degrees: MS in integrated biology; PhD in integrated biology
Faculty: https://biology.uiowa.edu/people/faculty
Website: https://biology.uiowa.edu/

Facilities

The department is housed in two contiguous buildings, with modern facilities and equipment for state-of-the-art research.

Facilities include the W.M. Keck Dynamic Image Analysis Facility, which couples sophisticated state-of-the-art microscopy and computerized motion analysis to permit 3D real-time analysis of cell movement in vitro and in situ. The Roy J. Carver Center for Genomics houses the department’s DNA sequencing, oligo synthesis, quantitative PCR, functional genomics facilities, and informatics facilities. The Roy J. Carver Center for Imaging is a microscopy and imaging facility; its confocal microscopes are available for teaching and research.

A large greenhouse is used in plant research and education. The department also houses animal-care facilities suitable for mice, rats, rabbits, Xenopus laevis, and zebra fish. These facilities are managed by the university’s animal care unit, which is accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). A central university facility provides assistance in the preparation of transgenic mice.

The department is home to the Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, which is affiliated with the National Institutes of Health. The hybridoma bank collects and distributes monoclonal antibodies that originate in laboratories all over the world. Its collection now contains more than 3,500 monoclonal antibodies that are distributed to users internationally for a modest fee.

In addition to department facilities, the university offers a genomic sequencing service, a DNA oligonucleotide synthesis and enzyme lab, oligopeptide synthesis and sequencing equipment, and mass- and NMR spectroscopy facilities. The Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing is available for growing large amounts of microorganisms (e.g., 100 liters) for use in protein isolation.

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is a field station run cooperatively by the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa. Located on West Lake Okoboji, in northwestern Iowa, the laboratory affords excellent conditions for summer study in field biology, limnology, phycolgy, aquatic ecology, pollination biology, and plant taxonomy. It offers a wide variety of summer courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Students should check with their advisors to determine whether specific courses may be counted toward requirements for graduation. See Iowa Lakeside Laboratory (University College) in the catalog or visit the Lakeside Laboratory website.