Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

Director
• Mary P. Skopec (Geographical and Sustainability Sciences)

Iowa State University Participating Faculty
• Lori Biederman (Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology),
  Alexander Braidwood (College of Design), Brianna Burke
  (English and American Indian Studies), James Colbert (Ecology,
  Evolution, and Organismal Biology), Elizabeth Swanner
  (Geological and Atmospheric Sciences)

University of Iowa Participating Faculty
• Matthew P. Dannenberg (Geographical and Sustainability
  Sciences), John F. Doershuk (Anthropology), Andrew A. Forbes
  (Biology), Marc A. Linderman (Geographical and Sustainability
  Sciences), Corey D. Markfort (Civil and Environmental
  Engineering/Mechanical Engineering), Susan Meerdink
  (Geographical and Sustainability Sciences), Silvia Secchi
  (Geographical and Sustainability Sciences), Adam Skibbe
  (University College)

University of Northern Iowa Participating Faculty
• Laura Jackson (Biology), Mark Meyers (Biology), Patrick Pease
  (Geography/Social Science and History Education), Daryl D.
  Smith (Biology)

Website: https://iowalakesidelab.org/

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is a field station run cooperatively by the
University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of
Northern Iowa. Students at all three institutions, as well as visiting
students, nationally and internationally, may take Iowa Lakeside
Laboratory courses for credit through their home institution.

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory was established in 1909 for the
conservation and study of the rich flora and fauna of northwest
Iowa, especially the numerous lakes, wetlands, and prairies of the
Iowa Great Lakes region. The campus is located on approximately
140 acres of restored prairie, wetland, and gallery forest along the
west shore of West Okoboji Lake. Teaching and research facilities
include eight laboratory buildings, a library, and a lecture hall. Living
accommodations include cottages, motel-style units, and a large mess
hall. All students are encouraged to stay at Lakeside while they are
taking courses to derive full advantage of its educational, professional,
and social life.

Mission

Lakeside's mission is to provide undergraduate and graduate students
an opportunity for hands-on experience in a variety of natural and
human environments through its field-oriented courses, and to provide
research facilities and support for graduate students and faculty
members working on research projects in northwestern Iowa.

Summer Session

Each summer Iowa Lakeside Laboratory offers students a unique
educational experience—small, inquiry-based, full-immersion,
field-oriented courses in the natural sciences (archaeology, botany,
ecology, hydrology, soils, zoology) and related areas, such as
sustainability and the health sciences. Courses are taught at the
sophomore/junior level and the senior/graduate level. Enrollment
usually is limited to 10 or fewer students per course. Most courses
meet all day Monday through Friday, last four weeks, and offer 1 s.h. of credit for each week (40 clock hours) in class. One- and two-week
courses also are available, including courses designed especially for
teachers and professionals.

Not all courses are offered every year; visit the Course Catalog on the
Iowa Lakeside Laboratory website or consult summer course offerings
at the University of Iowa or the other public universities in Iowa
to learn which courses will be offered during a particular summer
session. Students should check with their advisors to determine
whether specific courses count toward requirements for their majors or
minors or toward other requirements.

Research

Research projects by undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty
members can be completed either on the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory
campus or at many nearby natural areas. Undergraduate and graduate
students are strongly encouraged to work on independent projects at
the laboratory, and graduate students are welcome to use Lakeside as
a base for their thesis and dissertation research. Laboratory space and
other facilities are available for long- or short-term research projects.

Registration

Students may enroll in Iowa Lakeside Laboratory courses by
submitting an online registration and housing form on the Iowa
Lakeside Laboratory website. Information about scholarships, tuition,
and housing also can be found on this website under the Student
Resources section.

Registration usually opens in early January. Enrollment is limited, so
students should register early. When they register, they must apply for
housing or indicate that they plan to live off campus.