

# **Welcome to DSU Biology**

- **We are the Department of Biological Sciences**
- **Today's host: Dr. Ellen Green**  
**Associate Professor of Biology**  
**and Department Chair**
- **Today we will give you some basic information that you will need to register for classes.**
- **You will get lots more details when you arrive on campus in the fall.**

# **Caylor-White- Walters Hall**



- **We are located in Caylor-White-Walters Hall**
- **Caylor-White: South side of the building**
- **Walters: North side of the building**
- **New Science Building: East side of the building**



# **Building Renovation**

- **Building renovation is nearly complete.**
- **The new addition and renovated Caylor-White Hall are in operation now.**
- **The renovated Walters Hall will be completed during Fall 2015.**



## **New Labs**

- **The renovated science building houses many brand new laboratories. Some of the new labs were used for the first time last year, but the newer labs in Caylor and Walters will be used for the first time in the coming year.**

# How to contact us

- **Biological sciences chair: Dr. Ellen Green**
- **Chemistry/Physics chair: Dr. Joe Bentley**
- **Department office: Gibson-Gunn 127**
- **Department secretary: Ms. Barbara Knight**
- **Phone: 662-846-4240**
- **Fax: 662-846-4798**
- **Web: <http://www.deltastate.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/biological-and-physical-sciences/>**

# **Which degrees do we offer?**

- **There are two bachelor's degrees offered in the department, each with several concentrations.**
  - **Biology**
  - **Environmental Science**
- **You will major in one of these fields, unless you are in a non-degree pre-professional program.**

# **Biology major**

- **General concentration**
  - **For students who want to become biologists. Many of these students will continue to the graduate level after graduation.**
- **Premedical science concentration**
  - **Mainly for pre-med, pre-dental, and pre-pharmacy students. Includes biology degree plus additional pre-professional prerequisites.**
- **Biology education concentration**
  - **For those who want to teach biology at the secondary school level.**

# **Environmental science major**

- **General concentration**
  - **For students preparing for a career in all aspects of environmental science.**
- **Wildlife management concentration**
  - **For students interested in wildlife management. Meets standards established by the Wildlife Society.**
- **Geospatial technology concentration**
  - **Emphasizes competence in global information systems as related to environmental science.**



# What about pre-health programs?

The department also offers programs that give you all the prerequisites for professional schools including:

- **Medicine**
- **Dentistry**
- **Physical therapy**
- **Occupational therapy**
- **Pharmacy**
- **Optometry**
- **Veterinary medicine**
- **Medical laboratory sciences**
- **Cytotechnology**
- **Dental hygiene**
- **Health informatics and information management**
- **Radiologic sciences**

# **How do pre-health programs work?**

- **Admission to a professional school requires you to complete certain undergraduate courses. You take those courses here at DSU.**
- **Then you go on to the professional school. You do not complete your program at Delta State.**
- **Some programs require a bachelor's degree (e.g. medical, dental, physical therapy). You complete your BS degree at DSU before going to professional school.**
- **Some programs only require 2-3 years of undergrad courses (no degree from DSU).**

# **How long do pre-professional programs take?**

- **For pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-physical therapy, (and usually pre-pharmacy and pre-optometry), you must complete a BS degree - 4 years**
- **For pre-occupational therapy: 2-3 years**
- **For most others: 2 years**
- **This only includes the time at DSU. Professional school programs that come next vary from 2-7 years and up, depending on the field.**

# **What is my major?**

- **If you are pursuing a 4-year bachelor's degree in the Department of Biological Sciences, your major is biology or environmental science.**
- **If you are in a pre-professional program, we also need to know which one.**
- **If you are in a non-degree pre-professional program, you don't really have a "major." We call you a "pre-health" student (pre-vet, pre-dental hygiene, etc.)**

# Examples of “majors”

- **Biology/general biology**
- **Environmental science/general**
- **Environmental science/wildlife management**
- **Biology/pre-medical**
- **Biology/pre-physical therapy**
- **Pre-health/dental hygiene**
- **Pre-health/occupational therapy**

# Who is my advisor?

- **Every student has an academic advisor.**
- **Your advisor will be a biology faculty member assigned to you based on your major and career choices.**
- **Your advisor is the first person you should go to with questions.**
- **You meet with your advisor each semester for schedule planning and registration, but see them often - anytime you have questions.**

# **How do I meet my advisor?**

- **When you get to campus in the fall, come by the department office to find out who your advisor is and how to find her or him.**
- **Drop by to meet your advisor early in the semester.**
- **Your advisor will help you through your whole academic program at DSU and help keep you on the track to your desired career goals.**

# What does *credit hours* mean?

- Each course carries a certain amount of credit (credit hours).
- A 3-hour class meets about 3 hours/week.
- Most labs count 1 *credit hour*, though they meet for 2-3 *clock hours* per lab meeting.
- Example: BIO 100 is a 4-hour course:
  - Three hours lecture/week (M-W-F, 50-min classes or Tu-Th, 75-min classes)
  - One lab meeting/week, 2-hour class



# **What is a typical semester load?**

- **You are considered a full-time student if you carry 12 hours/semester.**
- **But a most students will want to average 15-16 hours/semester.**
- **To complete a bachelor's degree (124 hours) in four years (8 semesters), you must average  $124/8 = 15.5$  hours/semester. Most students take 15-18 hours per semester depending on exactly which courses they are taking.**

# **What classes should I take in the Fall?**

- **Nearly all freshmen biology, environmental science, and pre-health professions students take the same classes in the first semester:**
  - **ENG 101 - English composition I (3 hrs)**
  - **MAT 104 - College algebra (3 hrs)**
  - **BIO 100 - General biology I (4 hrs)**
  - **CHE 101 - General chemistry I (3 hrs)**
  - **CHE 103 - General chemistry I lab (2 hrs)**
  - **FYS 100 - First year seminar (1 hr)**
  - **Total: 16 credit hours**

# Exceptions to the typical schedule

**This schedule may not be exactly right for you. Some of the things that might make it different are:**

- **Do you already have credit for one or more of these courses?**
- **Have you been advised to take developmental (099) courses?**
  - **For example, if you need to take MAT 099, you must complete that before taking college algebra.**
  - **If you cannot take college algebra the first semester, you will not be able to take chemistry either (MAT 104 is a prerequisite for chemistry).**

# **Exceptions to the typical schedule**

- If you are not sure about these exceptions, there will be advisors available after this presentation to help with any questions you might have. If you are at all unsure about which classes to register for, please ask for help.**
- Your orientation leaders will also help you decide what courses are right for your situation. They are familiar with the science curriculum and can give you guidance from the student perspective.**

# **What about admissions tests?**

- **You should start thinking about tests that are required for professional and graduate schools.**
  - **MCAT - required for medical school**
  - **DAT - required for dental school**
  - **PCAT - required for pharmacy school**
  - **OAT - required for optometry school**
  - **GRE - required for graduate schools, also for physical therapy and vet school**
- **Even though you don't take these exams until your junior year or so, you should learn about them now, so that you can start preparing when the time comes.**

# **How do I register for classes?**

- **You register yourself through the web using DSU online services.**
- **Your orientation leaders will help guide you through that process today.**
- **It may seem a little scary at first, but you will get the hang of it. We will make sure your registration is complete and that you know what your class schedule looks like.**
- **For future semesters, you will meet with your advisor to plan your schedule, then register yourself online.**

# Can I get more info on the web?

- **Yes! Use our website to learn more about:**
  - **What's going on in the department**
  - **Descriptions of faculty and courses**
  - **Curriculum lists for all programs**
  - **Student organizations**
- **Where?**
- **<http://www.deltastate.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/biological-and-physical-sciences/>**

# **Don't forget...**

- **Fill out your departmental registration form.**
- **You will not know all the information the form asks for, but be sure to...**
- **Indicate your major and pre-professional program (if this applies to you).**
  - **We need this information to assign you the right advisor.**
- **Turn in your registration form to your orientation leader today after you register!**



# Thank You

- **Orientation leaders will now help you register for your fall semester classes.**
- **If you have questions for an advisor before registering, just let us know.**
- **This slide show will be posted on the department website if you want to download it later.**

**Welcome to**

**DELTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY** 