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School of Science

Dean: Jeffrey Osborn

Mission Statement: The School of Science provides a high quality and challenging education for exceptional undergraduate students, offering studies in the sciences as well as interdisciplinary fields. Students interact with outstanding teacher-scholars as well as instructors, advisors, and mentors, and have access to modern, well-equipped facilities for hands-on experiences. Faculty members integrate comprehensive undergraduate research experiences into their scholarship, actively preparing students to meet future career or graduate school goals. An array of support programs is designed to provide any student with a desire to study in the School of Science the opportunity to succeed. The liberal arts setting of the College and the balance of theory and practice in the School prepare each student for lifelong learning and for contributing to the field and to society at large.

The School of Science is dedicated to providing students with an outstanding education in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and statistics, and physics that emphasizes the excitement of scientific exploration and the importance of science to society. Through coursework, independent study, faculty-sponsored laboratory or field research, and internships, the school aims to foster a deep understanding of the concepts and processes of science. The School of Science is also dedicated to producing excellent teachers of science in cooperation with the School of Education through elementary education programs and its secondary education programs in biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics. One of the opportunities available to students pursuing a degree in the School of Science is to study abroad for a semester or a year. Any student interested in studying abroad should meet with his/her faculty advisor early in his/her college career. Students in the School of Science can expect to go on to rewarding careers in a wide variety of fields including graduate study, professional schools, teaching, high-technology industry, public service, media, or any other area in which a strong science background is important.

The departments of the School of Science are located in adjacent buildings next to Lake Ceva: the Science Complex (chemistry, mathematics and statistics, and physics), the Biology Building (biology), and Holman Hall (computer science). The Science Complex and the Biology Building are newly constructed facilities, and they, along with Holman Hall, are equipped with modern tools of science and science education, including a planetarium, astronomical observatory, optics laboratory, nuclear magnetic resonance laboratory, spectroscopy and chromatography suite, molecular modeling suite, electron microscopy suite, molecular biology laboratory, greenhouse, Sun workstation laboratory, Intel computing laboratory, mathematics education laboratory, and several computer classrooms. Individual faculty laboratories are designed to allow intensive interaction between students and faculty in an undergraduate-focused research environment.

The School of Science offers a designated option for entering first-year students who are undecided about their choice of major but are leaning towards math or science. Students in this matriculated pre-major program are designated “Open Option—Science.” During the first year of study at the College, they receive developmental advising through the dean’s office, which facilitates both the self-exploration and education regarding career opportunities necessary to enable the student to select an appropriate major. It is expected that students entering the College as Open Option—Science designees will have formally declared a major (either within the School of Science or in another school) by the end of their first year. Students cannot graduate with this designation, and early declaration of the appropriate major will facilitate timely graduation.

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The Office of the Dean of Science is in the Science Complex P105. The assistant dean is Patricia Van Hise, who can be reached at 609-771-3472. The secretary to the dean is Monica Zrada. You may contact the Office of the Dean at 609.771.2724.

Suggested First-Year Course Sequence for Open Option (UNDS)

The suggested first-year sequence of study for Open Option—Science students is designed to assist in the exploration of majors, and therefore varies between students. Selection of all courses is made with advisement.

Fall

Must register for:

SCI	099/Orientation to Science	0 course unit
FSP	First Seminar	1 course unit

Probably will register for at least one of (depending upon major interests):

MAT	127/Calculus A	1 course unit
CHE	201/General Chemistry I	1 course unit

And might register for (depending upon major interests), one of:

If Mathematics or Statistics:

MAT	200/Discrete Mathematics	1 course unit
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If Physics or Chemistry:

PHY	201/General Physics I	1 course unit
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If Computer Science:

CSC	220/Computer Science I: Computational Problem Solving.	1 course unit
or		
CSC	250/Accelerated Computer Science I and II	

If interests outside School of Science:

1 course unit

A liberal learning course from: Arts and Humanities (Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts or World View and Ways of Knowing); Social Sciences and History (Behavior, Social or Cultural Perspectives, or Social Change in Historical Perspective); Second Language

Total

4 course units

Spring

Selection of courses for first-year spring semester is made with advisement. Those considering biology should take BIO185, Themes in Biology. In general, the next course in the sequence for the possible major within the School of Science is suggested, with exploration of alternative majors continuing through selection of appropriate liberal learning courses.

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COURSES

Below are descriptions of courses offered under the School of Science (prefix SCI), in addition to those listed under their respective departments.

SCI 099/Orientation to Science

0 course unit

Required of all first-year Open Option—Science students, this course provides an introduction to studying science and mathematics at the college level, to the academic and other support resources at The College of New Jersey and to the major programs offered within the School of Science. It is grounded in the theory of group developmental advising, and students will explore career and collegiate expectations and goals and their own active role in their undergraduate experience.

SCI 103/Physical, Earth, and Space Sciences

1 course unit

(with laboratory)

Restricted to students in Elementary, Early Childhood, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Special Education

An introduction to physical, earth, and/or space sciences. Topics may include: motion, forces, energy, the earth, environment, weather, the solar system, stars, galaxies, and the universe. Concepts are reinforced with a variety of experiments and demonstrations. This course is designed for elementary education majors to help them meet New Jersey state standards.

SCI 104/Cancer, Genes, and the Environment

1 course unit

Restricted to students in Elementary, Early Childhood, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Special Education

An introduction to chemistry and biology concepts related to current social issues in the study of cancer, genetics and the environment. Scientific principles necessary to understand topics such as pollution, ozone depletion, acid rain, nutrition, genetic engineering, cloning and stem cell research will be considered. Laboratory experiments, debates and projects will compliment the course, which is designed to meet New Jersey state standards in chemistry and life science.

SCI 111/Biochemistry and the Human Body

1 course unit

Restricted to students in the School of Nursing

An introduction to chemistry and its biological aspects, focusing on how chemical and biochemical processes pertain to normal and abnormal structure and function in the human body. Laboratory experiments will highlight important chemical processes as well as laboratory techniques important for further study of human biology in a nursing clinical context.