Choosing to pursue a degree in biology is just the beginning. The University of West Alabama's (UWA) College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences provides students with the knowledge and tools that extend well beyond the classroom and propel them onto an exciting career path. At the same time, students gain a love of learning and a greater sense of community.

Through a core foundation of the curriculum, generous scholarships, and opportunities to attend cutting-edge conferences, UWA supports our students every step of the way to assist them in accomplishing their goals in the field of biology.

**Careers For Biologists**

- Research laboratory scientists or technician
- Health care provider
- Environmental management and conservation
- Educational career in colleges, universities, primary and secondary schools, and Science museums, zoos, aquariums, parks, and nature centers
- Biotechnology
- Forensic science
- Science politics and policy
- Marketing, sales, and public relations for biotechnology and drug companies
- Science writing and communication

**Alabama will need to fill 110,000 STEM-related jobs by 2018**

“In the 21st century, scientific and technological innovations have become increasingly important as we face the benefits and challenges of both globalization and a knowledge-based economy.”

**National Science Foundation**

The University of West Alabama does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation in employment or the provision of services.
Scholarships in science, technology, engineering and math (S-STEM) is a federally funded program which provides financial support for students as they complete their bachelor degrees and prepare for employment or graduate school. Students participating in UWA BOSS (Biology Opportunities and Scholarships for Success) may earn annual scholarships of $8,500, renewable each year. Additional assistance, such as UWA Trustees Scholarships, offer up to $11,000 based on ACT score, and other financial aid is available. The UWA BOSS is funded by the National Science Foundation, DUE 1356248.

**About UWA BOSS**

- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. National or U.S. Permanent Resident
- Be enrolled full time (12 or more credits) at UWA
- Major in biological and environmental sciences
- Demonstrate academic potential or ability (minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0)
- Demonstrate financial need, defined for undergraduate students by the U.S. Department of Education guidelines for need-based federal financial aid
- Scholarship renewal is based on meeting the above requirements and achieving a minimum 3.0 GPA

**Eligibility**

UWA BOSS scholars will be closely monitored, mentored, and advised throughout their college years. They will receive faculty and peer tutoring, academic counseling, career advising, professional development services, and access to other resources to ensure successful completion of degrees in a timely fashion.

**Successful applicants will receive:**
- Up to $8,500 per academic year
- Academic advising and assistance
- Professional development activities
- Career services and counseling
- Internship opportunities
- Field trips and lab research

**UWA BOSS Support Services**

**Application Materials**

- A complete scholarship application form.
- A typed one-page essay outlining specific career goals and describing specifically how this scholarship will help you reach your goals.
- Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from an instructor in a STEM discipline. Reference letters should be in a sealed and signed envelope or sent by e-mail from the faculty member's email address.
- Transcripts of all high school level coursework with ACT and SAT scores
- Additionally, the UWA Office of Financial Aid must have the results of your submitted Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the scholarship deadline.

**Application Deadline**

April 15, 2015

**Project Staff**

Principal Investigator
Dr. Mustafa Morsy

Co-Principal Investigators
Dr. John McCall
Dr. Lee Stanton

For more information about the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, please visit: http://www.uwa.edu/Biological_and_Environmental_Sciences.aspx