Portrait of the Major
A biology major at Thiel College allows students to explore a wide range of sub-disciplines found in contemporary biology, from the cell and molecular to the ecosystem level of organization. Laboratory and field-based courses encourage students to study, analyze experimentally, interpret biological problems and to communicate effectively about biological matters.

Curriculum Highlights
The biology major is organized in three tracks—traditional biology, conservation biology and allied health—and serves students with a variety of interests. Traditional biology focuses on molecular organisms and population biology while conservation biology emphasizes biological diversity, population and environmental biology, and conservation strategies. Allied health prepares students for careers or further study in allied health professions. Thiel also offers a unique interdisciplinary neuroscience program where you will study how and why the brain works as it does.

Special Features
By studying biology at Thiel College, you’ll be able to:
• Interact directly with highly qualified faculty—the biology professors at Thiel College possess terminal degrees in their disciplines and take pride in the amount of time devoted to student instruction, both in the classroom and the laboratory.
• Conduct independent study—a senior independent study is a departmental requirement and allows you to produce original research. Past students have presented their work at national conferences or published in scientific journals.
• Opportunities for field experiences—Thiel’s conservation biology track was one of the first-ever offered in the United States to students exclusively at the undergraduate level. Thiel owns both the East Acres Biology Research Area and the Brucker Blue Heron Sanctuary for distinctive field experiences. Our faculty maintains contacts at several local field sites that allow for additional opportunities for field study and aids you in finding internships.
• Take advantage of guaranteed seats at regional professional schools—Thiel maintains articulation agreements with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Chatham University and Gannon University that guarantee seats to highly qualified Thiel students in their osteopathic medicine, physician’s assistant and physical therapy programs.

Career and Graduate School Outlook
Your Thiel biology degree will prepare you for a wide variety of graduate and professional education programs as well as some entry-level career opportunities. Neuroscience majors can launch a career in the neurotechnology field or prepare for graduate study in a variety of fields.

Contact Information
Dr. Michael Balas, Professor and Department Chair • mbalas@thiel.edu • 724-589-2117
75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125
800-24-THIEL • 724-589-2345 • admissions@thiel.edu
I am very fortunate that I chose to receive my education from this fantastic school. Growing up in suburban Pittsburgh, I had hoped to find a school that would allow me to experience college life with the benefits of a smaller college community and class sizes. I found just what I was looking for, and much more, in Thiel. I had chosen to major in traditional and conservation biology, and my professors encouraged me to take up minors in wildlife and behavioral biology as well. From the day that I started, my professors ensured that I was on the right path to my future goals in life, both professionally and personally. When I expressed interest in traveling to learn more about my field, my professors and other staff at Thiel guided me to an amazing program studying wildlife management in Africa for my last semester—an experience that will stick with me forever. They also taught me valuable skills in our field that, to this day, still prove invaluable in the “real world.” I was recently hired as an environmental scientist with a great environmental consulting company, and many of the skills that earned me this job can be attributed back to my experience at Thiel. When I had interviewed for this job, my employer immediately recognized Thiel College and was excited that I had graduated from there – he knew the good reputation that Thiel carries.”

James B. Davis ’69,
forester
Clearfield, Pa.
Major: Biology
Clubs & Activities: Phi Theta Phi fraternity, wrestling and baseball

"Earning a major, while the most important part of an education, needs to be tempered with the significant importance of learning values and how to interact with people. How your major applies to these skills is important. I participated in the first Phi Theta Phi Walk for Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh in February of 1968. It was cold and snowy, but the sense of helping the children and the fellowship not only among the members of the fraternity but also with folks along the way exemplified the education and values of Thiel College. An instilled sense of engagement with people and the broadening of perspective from varied classes gave me a good foundation for the way in which I work with people that I encounter through my employment.”

Mindy Wolfe ’12,
graduate veterinary student (DVM)
University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, Mo.
Major: Biology
Minors: Wildlife Biology, Biochemistry, Behavioral Biology
Clubs and Activities: Beta Beta Beta (biology honorary), American Chemical Society, Les Lauriers honorary

"The biology professors at Thiel are an amazing group of professors who are focused on student success—not only at Thiel but in future endeavors as well. From the day I stepped foot in their offices as a freshman to the day I got accepted into veterinary school—and even until now—they help throughout the entire process by giving advice or helping to steer me down the path so I can achieve my goals. It is this individual attention that catapults Thiel ahead of all the other universities. Thiel is my family and will remain my family forever, since it is the professors there who prepared me to get where I am today.”

Liz Dubnicay ’11,
junior environmental scientist
Groundwater & Environmental Services
Cranberry, Pa.
Major: Biology/Conservation Biology
Minors: Wildlife Biology, Behavioral Biology
Clubs and Activities: Beta Beta Beta (biology honorary), Habitat for Humanity, Organization for Black Collegiates (OBC), Women Inspiring the Next Generation (WING)