WISCIENCE

SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATES

UW–Madison offers a wealth of opportunities in the natural sciences for undergraduate students. WISCIENCE undergraduate courses and programs are designed to enhance and complement natural science academic programs. WISCIENCE offers first-year courses such as Exploring Biology, Exploring Service in Science, and Secrets of Science, which support a larger understanding of the principles of science and of the opportunities available at UW–Madison. Courses for more experienced science students promote deeper engagement beyond the classroom. The Entering Research course series supports undergraduate research experiences, and the Engage Children in Science service learning course trains students to lead afterschool science clubs in the community.

The breadth of opportunities for undergraduates at UW-Madison is particularly rich in the biological sciences, with more than thirty biology-related undergraduate majors offered across six different schools/colleges on campus. WISCIENCE supports students as they navigate and take advantage of this breadth, providing programs such as the BioHouse (https://www.housing.wisc.edu/biohouse) residential learning community, STEM Immersion Bootcamp, and the BioCommons (a community and learning space at Steenbock Library and online at biology.wisc.edu (http://www.biology.wisc.edu)).

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES

WISCIENCE promotes cross-college collaboration among university educators around issues in science education, including teaching for diversity. WISCIENCE offers events, learning communities, consulting and other teaching and learning resources for faculty/staff, educators in the natural sciences, as well as a Teaching Fellows training program for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. WISCIENCE also provides mentor training using the Entering Mentoring curriculum and coordinates UW–Madison mentor/mentee training efforts with the National Research Mentoring Network. A resource center for university educators is located at 445 Henry Mall, Room 118.

SCIENCE OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WISCIENCE initiates and supports outreach efforts to improve K–12 science education, prepare future science undergraduates, and encourage general public engagement with the natural sciences. Outreach programming ranges from research experiences for pre-college students from underrepresented groups to professional development courses and experiences for K-12 science teachers. Through the Adult Role Models in Science program, WISCIENCE collaborates with local afterschool programs and schools to implement science clubs and family science events. WISCIENCE also facilitates cross-campus collaboration and helps provide support for the Science Alliance (http://www.science.wisc.edu).