

## **Admission to the Zoo and Conservation Science Major**

*Zoo Science Track* □ *Aquarium Science Track*

Admission into the ZoSc major is done by application at the end of spring semester every year. When applying, students *should* satisfy all four of the requirements below:

- Achieving a C or above in Bio 1010 (or placement/transfer credit)
- Achieving a C or above in Bio 1020 (or placement/transfer credit)
- Achieving a C or above in ZoSc 1010
- Achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

Students who achieve 3 out of the 4 above criteria are encouraged to apply and can be conditionally admitted, pending space. Chemistry 1400 and 1500, Math 1250 and 1700, experience with animals, and demonstration of strong interpersonal performance all strengthen applications. For admission into the Aquarium Science track, students are strongly encouraged to have taken ESCI 1002 – Marine Science.

If students do not meet the above requirements, they are encouraged to schedule a meeting with their academic advisor, the ZoSc program director, or the Center for Student Success.

During the application process, students selected which track (zoo or aqua) they are interested in. Students, especially those with higher grades, **can double-track** in years where space allows.

### **Selection Process**

Students are selected primarily on the strength of their academic record in the above courses but the other criteria are taken into consideration in cases of close academic scores.

### **Statement on Disability Services**

The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Students seeking such accommodations should contact Kera McClain Manley, Assistant Director of the ASC and the Disability Services Coordinator, to arrange for whatever assistance you need. Disability Services is located in Room 228 on the second floor of the Library in the Academic Support Center. For more information, contact Kera at [kmanley@otterbein.edu](mailto:kmanley@otterbein.edu), 614.823.1618 or visit the Disability Services website.

### **Additional Criteria**

In addition to the criteria above, the nature of the Zoo and Conservation Science major necessitates several non-academic criteria that were developed in conjunction with our partner institutions. These criteria must be met by all students in order to keep both students and animals safe and unharmed. Students must continue to meet these criteria as they progress in the major, or they risk being disenrolled or given an incomplete or failing grade in the practicum courses required for graduation. Instances of concern will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Zoo and Conservation Science Advisory Committee.

Students under review will be temporarily removed from all off-campus credit bearing experiences until the review is completed. Depending on the outcome of the review, the suspension may be lifted or continued.

Additional criteria include:

- Pass a criminal background check
- A negative TB test
- Ability to work a flexible schedule including weekends, evenings, and holidays
- Ability to work in varied weather conditions (i.e. extreme heat, cold, rain, snow)
- Self-transportation is not required, but is encouraged for students in the practicums.

**Safety Performance Requirements:** Safety is essential. All students must consistently perform in a manner that does not jeopardize the safety and well-being of animals, fellow students, instructors, or themselves. Safety performance requirements include but are not limited to the following five areas:

1. **Observation:** Observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. Observe an animal accurately to identify health and welfare concerns; accurately identify medication names and dosages as shown on containers, follow veterinarian and staff orders; and perform physical assessments and restraint of animals.
2. **Communication:** Observe animals in order to elicit information, describe changes in body condition and welfare, and perceive non-vocal animal signals. Respond appropriately to emergency signals and animal vocalizations. Demonstrate written, verbal and language capabilities to keep detailed records and communicate effectively and professionally. Follow written and verbal instructions. Work independently and in small groups.
3. **Motor:** Stand for prolonged periods of time, quickly move about and transport animals during emergencies, and maneuver quickly in confined spaces. Carry equipment, push, pull, stoop, kneel, bend, and climb stairs. Lift, push and pull at least 50 pounds. Other motor skills include eye-hand-foot coordination, repetitive arm and hand movements and finger dexterity, using sterile techniques, preparing and administering medication (oral, intramuscular, intravenous) and numerous other procedures.
4. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize data. Demonstrate problem solving and decision making, critical skills for animal caretakers, require all of these intellectual abilities. Collect and analyze data pertinent to an animal's health. Incorporating new information from peers, teachers, and the professional literature is essential.
5. **Behavioral, Social and Ethical Attributes:** Emotional stability and accepting responsibility and accountability are essential. Work with and handle a variety of animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Demonstrate ethical actions related to the well-being of others. Tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, balance multiple assignments that may change as new information is gained, and function effectively under stress. Demonstrate neat appearance and maintain professional and courteous behavior at all times.