

SFSU Biology Graduate Program

FAQS ABOUT FUNDING

What are the costs for tuition for graduate students?

Find university fees here: <http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/fees-financial-aid/fees-expenses/#text>

What are my options for funding as a graduate student?

Application link:

<https://biologysfsu.wufoo.com/forms/gtaga-general-application-fall-2019/>

Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA)

We offer all incoming students the opportunity to serve as GTAs for selected Biology courses. The courses assigned depend on the student's prior teaching and educational experiences, concentration, and academic record. Depending on the courses, the GTAs can earn (2018/2019 academic year current rates):

1-unit lab course: \$2648/semester

1-unit lab course + 1 unit discussion/lecture: \$3972/semester

2-unit lab course or 2x 1 unit lab courses: \$5,296/semester

GTAs usually teach 2x 1-unit courses or 1x 2-unit lab course, or can opt for the 1-unit lab + 1-unit discussion option.

Graduate Assistant (GA)

Some biology courses need graders/assistants. Depending on the course, the following GA-ships can be assigned with approval of the faculty teaching that course (2018/2019 academic year current rates).

5 hours/week: \$1574/semester

10 hours/week: \$2952/semester

15 hours/week: \$4487/semester

Graduate Fellowships

The Student Enrichment Office (SEO) administers several programs that awards fellowships to students. <https://seo.sfsu.edu/>

Research Assistantships

Our SFSU faculty members conduct research funded by many external programs, including the NIH and NSF. Please ask the faculty members you are considering as mentors if they have funds available from their grants to support your work.

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What are the classes like that I would GTA?

You can check the SFSU schedule to see when classes generally meet each semester.
<https://webapps.sfsu.edu/public/classservices/classsearch>

BIOL 101 Human Biology Laboratory (1 unit lab)

Intended for non-biology majors. Laboratory exercises demonstrating scientific processes, including the scientific method, analysis of data, and drawing appropriate conclusions. Body structure and function, reproduction, development, heredity, and evolution.

Time: Each lab meets 1x for 3 hours each week. 1 hour mandatory GTA meetings are held weekly.

Requirements: General biology knowledge is sufficient. GTAs are given a detailed instructor's manual which helps supplement knowledge about human health and provides tips for orchestrating the lab activities. GTAs facilitate cooperative learning and group work and foster independent thinking by the students.

BIOL 150 The World of Plants Lab (1 unit lab)

Intended for non-biology majors. World of plants, their place in nature, and the relation to humans. Growing plants, field observations, and studies of the economic uses of plants.

Time: Each lab meets 1x for 3 hours each week. 1 hour mandatory GTA meetings are held weekly.

Requirements: General biology knowledge, background in plants/plant biology is preferred.

BIOL 213 Principles of Human Physiology Laboratory (1 unit lab)

Intended for non-biology majors. Laboratory exercises in mammalian physiology.

Time: Each lab meets 1x for 3 hours each week. 1 hour mandatory GTA meetings are held weekly.

Requirements: General biology knowledge, background in physiology is preferred. GTAs are given a detailed instructor's manual that provides tips for orchestrating the lab activities. GTAs facilitate cooperative learning and group work and foster independent thinking by the students.

BIOL 230 Introductory Biology I (2 unit lab)

Intended for biology majors. Fundamentals of biology: chemical basis of life, cell structure, bioenergetics, plant and animal physiology, and genetics.

Time: Each lab meets 2x for 3 hours each week. 1 hour TA meetings are held weekly.

Requirements: General biology knowledge is sufficient. GTAs are given a detailed instructor's manual for orchestrating the lab activities. GTAs facilitate cooperative learning and group work and foster independent thinking by the students.

BIOL 240 Introductory Biology II (1 unit lab +1 unit discussion)

Intended for biology majors. Fundamentals of biology: gene expression, development, evolution, ecology, and the diversity of microbes, plants, and animals

Time: Each lab meets twice a week for 2 hours each (First 30 minutes is the 1 unit discussion portion and next 1.5 hours is the 1 unit lab portion – same room.) Mandatory TA meetings are held weekly.

Requirements: Ecology, evolution and systematics knowledge preferred. Basic background in animal and plant form and function also helpful. GTAs facilitate cooperative learning and group work and foster independent thinking by the students.

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BIOL 313 Principles of Ecology (1 unit lab)

Intended for non-majors. Ecological principles and methods. Introduction to population, community, and ecosystem ecology. Trips to various habitats.

Time: Each lab meets 1x for 3 hours each week. 1 hour TA meetings are held weekly.

Requirements: General biology knowledge. Some experience in ecology is preferred.

BIOL 328 Human Anatomy (1 unit lab)

Restricted to sophomore or above standing with a major in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, clinical science, kinesiology. Gross structures of the human body.

Time: Each lab meets 1x for 3 hours each week. 1 hour TA meetings are held weekly.

Requirements: Prior coursework in human anatomy is preferred. This is a cadaver based lab.

BIOL 482 Ecology (1 unit lab)

Intended for biology majors. Interrelationships between organisms and their environment, studied at the individual, population, community, and ecosystem levels. Field trips to various environments.

Time: Each lab meets 1x for 3 hours each week. 1 hour TA meetings are held weekly.

Requirements: Experience in ecology is preferred.

GTA Assignments are paid as follows:

1 section of a 1 unit lab course: \$2,648/semester

1 section of a 1 unit lab course + 1 unit discussion/lec: \$3,972/semester

1 section of a 2 unit lab course: \$5,296/semester

2 sections of a 1 unit lab course: \$5,296/semester

Other sources of funding:

Throughout the year, it is possible to apply for other funding. The due dates vary. Please consult the sites for when the applications are available and due. Links to some of these are below.

Biology:

<https://biology.sfsu.edu/funding-opportunities>

College of Science and Engineering:

<http://cose.sfsu.edu/scholarships>

The Student Enrichment Office:

<http://seo.sfsu.edu/>