

Lewis University has received a National Science Foundation grant specifically designed to help academically talented students from community colleges with financial need to finish their 4-year degree in Biology. Transfer students to Lewis can be awarded up to \$10,000 for three years. The grant starts for Lewis this year and will be available for at least the next five years. [See the information flyer and application are below.](#)

An articulated transfer guide for BHC students majoring in Biology is at <https://www.lewisu.edu/academics/biology/transfer.htm> Lewis accepts the AA and AS degrees and fully participates in IAI. Students who complete the full IAI GECC and the biology core courses can graduate from Lewis in two years after transfer. Lewis accepts up to 72 community college credits.

Lewis University has established partnerships with medical, dental, pharmacy, podiatric and chiropractic programs which offer guaranteed/preferred status for Lewis students. It also affiliates with Northwestern and Rush University hospitals to offer Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nuclear Medical Technology, Radiation Therapy, Vascular Ultrasound, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Respiratory Care, Perfusion Technology, and Medical Lab Sciences. Lewis University students also have a plethora of research opportunities within a dozen working lab projects in the Natural Sciences.

Lewis University is located in Romeoville, IL. <https://www.lewisu.edu/index.htm>  
Specific questions about the Biology major and the grant funding may be directed to:

**Jennifer Curran-Roberts, Ph.D.**

Professor, Pre-Health Professions Director  
Lewis University, Unit 298  
[RobertJe@lewisu.edu](mailto:RobertJe@lewisu.edu)  
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Transfer resource created 10/30/2018



*An NSF-supported cohort program for students majoring in one of the programs offered by the Department of Biology.*

### **What is Biology Transitions?**

The Lewis University Biology Transitions is a cohort program for transfer students majoring in one of the programs within the Department of Biology at Lewis University. Students participate in special coursework and cohort activities and have the opportunity to explore real-world research problems in their first year following transfer to Lewis. Biology Transitions students have enhanced educational opportunities, including a variety of career development and research opportunities available. This program is supported by an NSF Biology Transitions grant, **and includes scholarship support of up to \$10,000 per year for three years** for at least eight students per year.

### **Who is eligible for a Biology Transitions Scholarship?**

You are eligible to apply for a Biology Transitions scholarship if you:

- Are a student transferring from another post-secondary institution to Lewis University
- Have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA
- Are a citizen or national of the United States, alien admitted as a refugee, or alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.
- Declare a major in an area within the Department of Biology at Lewis University
- Have demonstrated financial need

### **How do I apply for a Biology Transitions Scholarship?**

Once accepted for admission to Lewis University, students meeting the academic requirements will be sent a scholarship application. In addition to the completed application, you must submit a FAFSA and have two recommendation letters sent on your behalf, at least one of which must be from a biology, chemistry, physics, or mathematics teacher. Students who apply by June 1 will receive priority consideration.

### **How are scholarships awarded?**

Scholarships are awarded based on your application questions, letters of recommendations, an interview with the selection committee, GPA, and demonstrated financial need. Members of certain underrepresented groups, defined by the National Science Foundation, are also given special consideration.

### **What do I need to do to retain my scholarship?**

You must maintain a 3.0 GPA at Lewis University, including successful completion of the designated transitions curriculum; declare a major with the Department of Biology; and participate in several Biology Transitions activities each year, which may include workshops, seminars, and outreach activities.

### **If I don't receive a scholarship, can I still be a part of Biology Transitions?**

Yes! We expect that there will be 10-15 seats available in each fall cohort once the available scholarships are awarded. Financial need and GPA play a role in selecting students for the scholarship funding and we seek to increase the number of underrepresented students in STEM fields. But, any transfer student is welcome to participate in our specialized cohort coursework, including the Introduction to Scientific Inquiry course.

### **Do I need to choose a major before I transfer to Lewis?**

If you are a Scholarship recipient, you do need to major in one of the Department of Biology programs at Lewis, but you do not need a declared biology major at your community college. At the time of your application, you should complete or be currently registered for all prerequisite courses that are required to declare a Biology program major at Lewis. All Biology Transitions students must declare a Biology program major and maintain a major in the Biology department at Lewis to remain eligible for the Biology Transitions funding.

*Biology Transitions is supported by National Science Foundation S-STEM Award #1742094*





## Do you offer undergraduate research in Biology?

Yes! We have active research going on in microbiology, cell culture, genetics and environmental science. Biology Transitions students are strongly encouraged to participate in research and get involved as early as their first year.

*For more information,  
please contact:*

Dr. Marne Bailey  
Associate Professor, Biology  
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(815) 836-5395

Jeannette Pifer  
Biology Instructor  
[PiferJe@lewisu.edu](mailto:PiferJe@lewisu.edu)  
(815) 836-5330

## Biology Programs

The Biology Department offers a wide range of programs, including

- Biology
- Dental Hygiene
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Environmental Science
- Medical Lab Science
- Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Perfusion Technology
- Podiatric Medicine
- Radiation Therapy
- Radiography
- Respiratory Care
- Vascular Ultrasound Technology

## About Lewis University

- A Catholic and Lasallian University located in Romeoville, IL, about 35 miles southwest of downtown Chicago.
- Seventh largest private college in Illinois, but maintains small class sizes with a student to faculty ratio of 13:1
- Recognized as a Top 30 Best Midwest Regional University by *U.S. News & World Report* and a Best Midwestern College by the Princeton Review.
- Nationally recognized by the Colleges of Distinction 2017-2018 as an Illinois College of Distinction and a Catholic College of Distinction.
- A STEM Jobs Approved College
- Rated in the Top 5 in Affordability among Private Colleges in the Midwest.
- Ranked in the Top 15 colleges for Adult Students, 1st as Best for Veterans, and is one of the top Catholic Colleges in Illinois.
- Well known to be both military friendly and Hispanic-serving.



# Application for **Biology Transitions Scholarship**

## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

First name	Last name		
E-mail			
Citizenship Status	<input type="checkbox"/> US citizen	<input type="checkbox"/> Resident alien	<input type="checkbox"/> Non US citizen
Race/Ethnicity	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
Intended program of study	Will you be a Lewis University student athlete? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Cumulative College GPA	Math/Science GPA		

## EXTRACURRICULAR INFORMATION

Please provide information regarding any clubs or organizations you belong to either through school or your community.

Name of organization or activity
Dates involved
Leadership positions (if any)

## SHORT ANSWER

Please attach a letter that includes your responses to the following questions.

- Why have you decided to pursue a degree in the biological sciences?
- What are your career goals and objectives?
- What impact would this scholarship have on your education and your overall professional development?

## PROVIDE 2 LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

One letter should be from an undergraduate biology, chemistry, physics, or math teacher.

**NOTE:** *An interview with the Biology Transitions Scholarship Committee is required of each applicant that is chosen for review.*

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Application priority deadline is June 1. All applications will be reviewed on or after this date.*



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**lewisu.edu**