MAJOR
The Health Science major is organized to prepare you to pursue professional programs such as medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, chiropractic, physical therapy, physician assistant, mortuary science; for entry level positions that require an understanding of the biomedical field and its practical application, such as jobs in laboratories, hospitals, the government, field offices, and small business and industry; or to pursue graduate programs. The program is thorough and rigorous, and the exploration of a wide variety of career possibilities in biomedical areas is possible. The department has a strong field and practical application emphasis and classes involve field study in local areas. We pride ourselves in our small class sizes, which makes a superior learning environment for our students.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE
This major provides opportunities that are not part of any regular programs that exist on and off campus that provide sound practical experience, such as student assistants, participation in the campus-tutoring programs, field studies, lab experience with relevant equipment, and biological travel tours. Internships at numerous facilities are available to students to develop and apply their skills.

WHAT 5 THINGS MAKE US DIFFERENT?

#1. Flexibility of pursuing education beyond the undergraduate level. This major combines all of the courses you need to put you on the right track for a biomedical career.

#2. There are two well equipped research labs and you are encouraged to be involved in research.

#3. VCSU prepares you by educating you with hands-on opportunities that are usually reserved for graduate students. Our students run the planetarium, conduct research, and gather samples.

#4. Students travel to regional and national scientific meetings to present on their current research.

#5. All faculty in the program have earned their Ph.Ds. Several have research grants and research labs which they run with the assistance of VCSU students.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES
The Rhoades Science Center includes a greenhouse for work in biology and botany, a planetarium and laboratories for biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, computer science, and photography studies. You will have access to:

• A fully equipped Biomedical Research laboratory and Aquatic Macro invertebrate Laboratory
• Opportunities for job shadowing in biomedical fields
• The dam and reservoir at Lake Ashtabula
• Biology faculty have ongoing connections with North Dakota Department of Health, ND Parks and Recreation, Northern Prairie

DR. DONALD C. AND MARJORIE MEREDITH SCHOLARSHIP

• Worth up to $12,000 over four years
• Designed to award Math or Science majors

PRE-PROFESSIONAL CLUB
You are invited to join the VCSU Pre-Professional Club upon arrival as VCSU. This club is for students interested in continuing their education in the medical field (including nursing), law, accounting, and graduate school. This club provides support for students going through the application process and provide opportunities to practice aptitude tests such as the GRE, mCAT, LSAT, and DAT. Volunteer work, job shadowing, and educational & leadership opportunities are also part of the club’s activities. The goal is for students to support each other, learn from other students’ experiences, thus making your applications stronger, and increase your chance for successful admission into your program of choice.

QUOTES

“Instead of bringing the outside world into the classroom, VCSU brings the classroom out into the world – they make sure that students are doing projects that involve what is going on in the world. The overall concepts were so engrained in everyday lectures that they stuck with me.”

Marcie Bata, 2008 Graduate
Southeast Central Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator for Public Health

“At first I was afraid that I would be behind other students in graduate school, but as time goes by I realize that I am on the same level in some subjects and even ahead on others. I feel so fortunate that I attended VCSU, for I got an excellent foundation to build on.”

Erika Schumacher, 2009 Graduate
Veterinary Medicine Graduate Student
Iowa State University
MAJOR

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the Health Science Program the students should be able to
1. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the major concepts in chemistry and biology
2. Exhibit critical thinking skills by applying the scientific method to solve problems.
3. Exhibit the ability to read and communicate in scientific style.
4. Analyze the consequences of activities on themselves and their environment.
5. Apply and gain admission to professional or graduate school.

ABILITIES

Problem Solving Obtain, organize, and interpret information to provide creative, critical solutions
Collaboration Ability to work with others
Global Awareness Recognize relationships
Communication Ability to convey information and knowledge
Technology Use, understand, and implement to provide solutions in an information society.

For degree and graduation requirements see pages 39-40.