

Beaufort-PLUS '01
Davidson College's Off-campus Biology Semester
at the
Duke University Marine Lab (and beyond!)

General Program Information: This unique, 4 course, integrated study of the southeastern US coast begins with ten weeks at the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort, NC where courses in Invertebrate Zoology, the Current Marine Ecological Literature, and Independent Research are pursued. The fourth course is a 4 week Group Investigation in Zoogeography: a week on Sapelo Island, a week in the Tampa Bay area, 3-4 days wilderness camping and canoeing in the Everglades 10,000 Island, and ten days at the Keys Marine Lab on Long Key.

Costs: The program is led by a Davidson Biology Faculty member teaching Davidson Students in Davidson Courses; essentially a semester long field trip. As such, it operates within the comprehensive fee for a semester at Davidson with double room and 19 meal plan rates. Some work study hours are available if qualified students are in the participant group.

Calendar: Students arrive in Beaufort on August 18 or 19 (TBA) to move in. Classes start Monday, August 20 at 0900h. We don't take the campus' fall break but run straight for TEN weeks ending with the final exam in Invertebrate Zoology on the morning of Monday, October 29. Students then have a three day break before we depart Davidson in two vans at 0900h on Friday, November 2 for Sapelo Island, GA. On November 9 we drive to the Tampa Bay area where we tent camp at Ft. DeSoto State Park and work at two science centers operated by Hillsborough Community College. For 4 nights (11/15-18) we operate out of Everglades City in the 10,000 Islands wilderness area driving on to Layton, FL on Long Key (mile 68.5 up from Key West) on the 19th. We will return to Davidson on November 30th or December 1st and the final paper (due by 1700h on 12/10/01) can be faxed, emailed or mailed to me by that time if plans necessitate but a hard copy must be received in any case.

"Rooming" and Board: At the Duke Marine Lab we will use rooms in two small single-sex dorms on the quad. Each has six rooms, each of which has a built-in, triple-decker bunk bed. The maximum Program size will be 17 students with one Academic Intern or 22 students with two Interns provided the sex ratio is divisible by three. There are no formal housing plans for the 3 day break but most students go back to Davidson and "crash" with friends. At Sapelo, sleeping arrangements will be in bunk beds, at least 2 to a room, again by sex and at the Keys Marine Lab the bunks may be 2 to several to a room. At Tampa and in the 'Glades we will be camping, 2 or 3 to a tent for a maximum of about 9 nights. (A night or two at Fort Jefferson on the Dry Tortugas we may camp if not on a live-aboard boat.) The biggest difference is that for the 6 nights in Tampa we'll be in a campground that has flush toilets and showers (they'll be (invigorating!)) and these amenities are not found in the 'Glades. The return from the Keys may be a single run or we will either camp or "crash" with an alum or parent if one is available.

Board: At DUML, 3 meals a day, 7 days a week are provided. At Sapelo and in Tampa and Layton we will be doing our own cooking but will provide 3 meals a day. For the time in the Everglades we will work from Davidson Outdoors menus for all meals. The only food costs individuals need to cover are the inevitable snacks and perhaps "fast food" on the travel days between stations. (1 or 2 meals on about 5 days—total about 8 or 9 meals)

Activities; Things to Bring; etc. At DUML there are opportunities for basketball, volleyball, shuffleboard, sailing (if qualified), swimming, fishing, jogging, cycling (if you have the bike), tennis and arrangements can be made to use a county operated fitness center about 5 miles away. SCUBA is not required but training will be available at reasonable rates through Discovery Diving, Inc. if desired. (If you have a boat to bring, make arrangements well in advance but surf or sailboards are OK.) Coin operated washers and dryers are very near the dorm and a canteen on the island has vending machines for snacks and soft drinks. Churches of many denominations are nearby in either Beaufort or Morehead City but the nearest Synagogue is about 40 miles away in New Bern.