



## The Chance to Make a Difference

Many students can go to college. If you think you have what it takes to contribute to human welfare through excellence in research science, the STARS program may be for you. We offer an outstanding education in the life sciences that will be the bedrock of professional success for those with the discipline to excel.

STARS graduates become leaders in the scientific community who give back to the nation and their communities by advancing knowledge in biotechnology, medicine, and the fundamental life sciences. If you want to be proud of your education and your purpose in life, now is the time to investigate becoming a STAR.

### For More Information

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Washington State University  
PO Box 647520  
Pullman, WA 99164-7520  
509-335-1276  
[molecular.biosciences.wsu.edu/STARS](http://molecular.biosciences.wsu.edu/STARS)

Admission to Washington State University and the STARS program is granted without regard to race/ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status, disability, or use of a service animal.

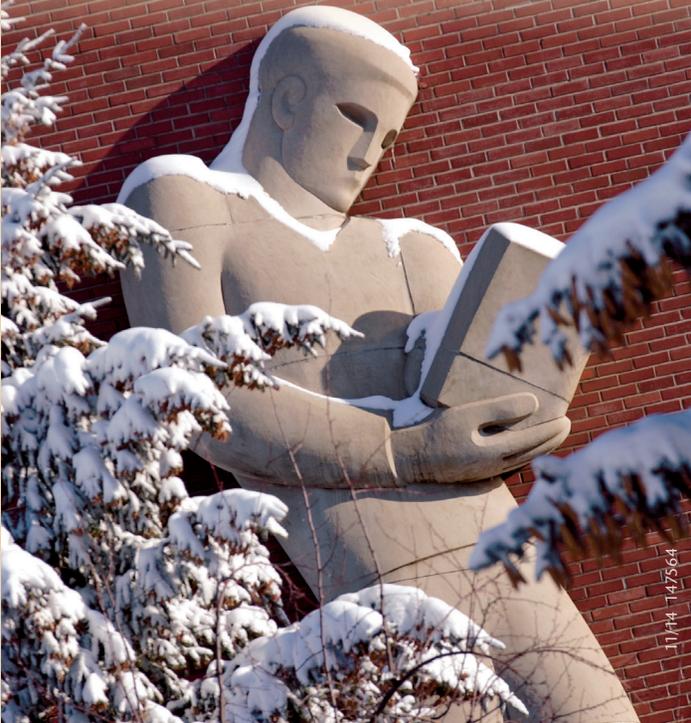
*Professor Terry Hassold's research on human genetics is known across the nation and is leading to a new understanding of human chromosomal disorders. Ross Rowsey (foreground) is a STARS student in Dr. Hassold's laboratory working on understanding human trisomies.*

## Applications

- Applicants to the STARS program must have been accepted as students to WSU or currently be in their first year at WSU.
- Entering freshmen must have an excellent high school GPA and SAT or ACT scores. Previous engagement in guided scientific inquiry, through summer research or advanced course work, is recommended.
- Students who are already undergraduates must have a minimum GPA of 3.7 in their basic science and math classes. Early engagement in research is recommended.
- Students should exhibit a focused commitment to a career in science\* as indicated by their high school and/or college course work and experience.
- Students must show a strong interest in earning a doctorate (Ph.D.) in molecular biosciences or neuroscience at WSU, as communicated by their essay in the STARS application.

\*This program is NOT intended for students pursuing preprofessional studies in the health sciences (e.g. premedicine, pre dental, preveterinary, etc.)

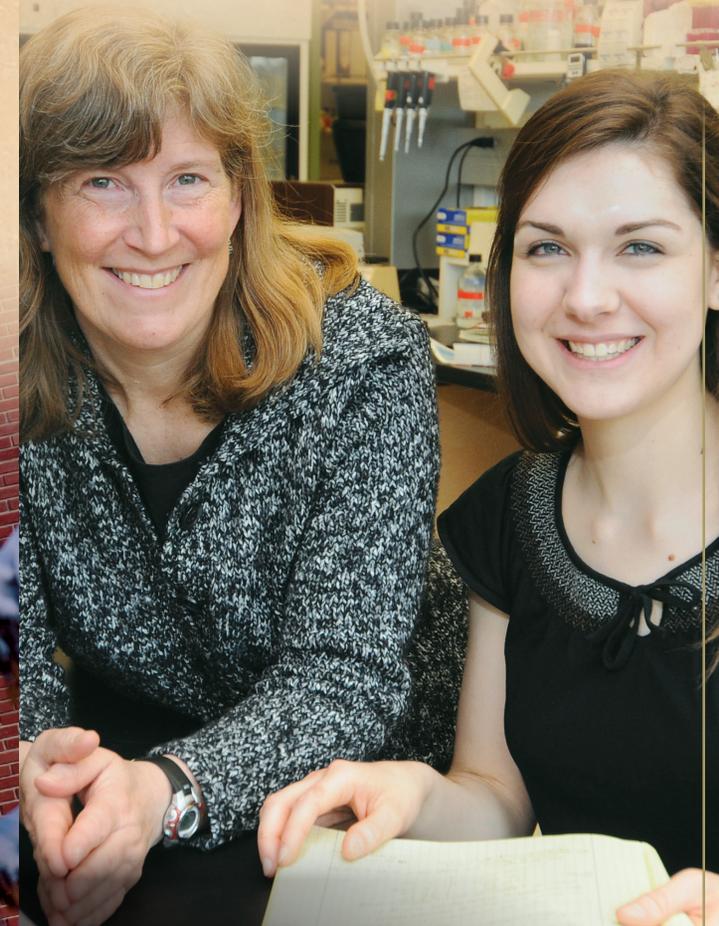
Visit [molecular.biosciences.wsu.edu/STARS](http://molecular.biosciences.wsu.edu/STARS) for details and information about how to apply.



# STARS:

## Students Targeted toward Advanced Research Studies

The fast-track from undergraduate to doctorate  
*School of Molecular Biosciences and Program in Neuroscience*



*Dr. Margaret Black (left) and STARS student Nicole Clark (right) work to engineer enzymes for improved utility in suicide-gene therapy as a novel approach to targeted cancer treatments.*

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



11/14 747564

## Accelerate Your Success and be a STAR

Scientists change the world. Washington State University can help you become a professional scientist, as comfortable in a research laboratory as you are in a classroom. In the STARS program, you'll receive generous support including scholarships, employment, and one-on-one advising and mentoring.

If you are accepted into STARS in the College of Veterinary Medicine and make satisfactory progress through the program, you will receive:

- Thousands of scholarship dollars when you are a freshman, with greater amounts each subsequent year.
- Summer employment as an undergraduate to perform research in the laboratories of WSU's best faculty in the life sciences.
- Advising support from university faculty that extends from your freshman year through the completion of your doctorate.
- The opportunity to major in your choice of biochemistry, genetics and cell biology, microbiology, or neuroscience.

Overall, STARS students receive Ivy League caliber support and education while studying life sciences right here in Washington, in the comfortable, friendly setting of rural Pullman.

## Join the Ranks of Elite Science Students

You can find a purpose greater than yourself through accomplishments in the molecular biosciences and neuroscience. The STARS program is designed for students with a clear record of exceptional performance in science and math classes in high school or college. Resilience, a serious work ethic, and dedication to success are the ingredients for excellence in the program. We welcome your application and look forward to the outstanding accomplishments of the students who are accepted.

The STARS program will let you enter the ranks of professional scientists on the fast track. You'll enjoy interacting with highly motivated peers who help accelerate your learning as an undergraduate. The program will also facilitate your transition into doctoral work as early as your third year at WSU. The result is that you can complete your doctorate in as little as seven years after finishing high school. This is a two- to four-year time-savings compared to the education of many young scientists.

Top student research award winners and their faculty mentors at SURCA.



## Undergraduates Showcase Their Research

Each spring at WSU, science majors have the opportunity to present their research projects at the Showcase for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (SURCA), a setting that replicates professional conferences.

"SURCA is a wonderful learning experience for our students," said Associate Provost Mary Sanchez-Lanier. "Students create a professional poster and give an oral presentation of their work. They receive written feedback from judges on their total effort. One student said she had better questions posed to her at our event than at an American Chemical Society meeting where she had given a similar presentation."

The poster competition illustrates the fact that undergraduate education has always been the cornerstone of WSU. With the STARS program, the university is taking that tradition to a higher level since STARS students are annual participants early in their careers.

STARS students have won multiple awards at SURCA for their presentations. These research experiences have translated into national recognition for STARS students. Seven STARS students have applied for the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship; three have won scholarships and three were named honorable mentions.



## Student Spotlight: Genetics and Cell Biology

Fiorella Grandi was clearly a STAR in the Genetics and Cell Biology program. Fiorella came to WSU after completing high school in Idaho and attained an exceptional level of success over her first four years. After completing research rotations, Fiorella joined the laboratory of Dr. Wenfeng An, where she studied movable genetic elements known as LINES. Her undergraduate research led to authorship of three papers, including one first author paper. Her efforts garnered recognition beyond WSU, including participation in prestigious summer research programs at Jackson Labs and at Yale University through the Howard Hughes Medical Institute EXROP program. In addition, Fiorella received a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in her third year, one of the highest national recognitions a student in science can achieve.

## Broad Support for Students

In addition to the special benefits given to students in the STARS program, life science majors at WSU receive support for their intellectual and personal journeys through:

- The Stephenson Complex, filled with science, math, and engineering students. The residence halls include a fully equipped computer lab and offer tutoring opportunities.
- Social and professional opportunities to interact with other students and faculty members within the School of Molecular Biosciences and the Program in Neuroscience.
- An award-winning Student Recreation Center open early morning to late evening for exercise and socializing.
- University-wide multicultural student offices and the Women's Resource Center available to all students for support and activities.
- The Compton Union Building (CUB) available for dining and recreation.

## Careers

Outstanding careers in research science are available in molecular biosciences and neuroscience. WSU students earning doctorates in these fields may:

- Become research scientists in industry and business.
- Expand their careers as entrepreneurs in biotechnology.
- Teach the next generation of research stars as faculty members at colleges and universities across the nation.



STARS will help you get here and beyond!