**Why choose bioinformatics North Central College?**

Bioinformatics, a branch of biotechnology using computational algorithms and techniques to work with biological data like DNA, is a vibrant new field. Bioinformatics is particularly important to genomics research because of the large amount of complex data this research generates.

With a minor in bioinformatics from North Central College, you’ll learn how to apply [computer science](http://northcentralcollege.edu/majors/computer-science) skills to the study of molecular [biology](http://northcentralcollege.edu/majors/biology). You’ll have opportunities to experience how databases, algorithms, computational and statistical techniques are used to solve practical problems involving the management and analysis of biological data.

North Central’s interdisciplinary approach is distinct. Very few other small, liberal arts colleges offer the opportunity to minor in bioinformatics.

**You can also (the sentence below doesn’t follow the “You can also” lead in)**

         Gain hands-on research experience in the growing field of genomics.

         Pursue research interests anywhere in the world by applying for a [Richter Independent Study Fellowship grant](http://northcentralcollege.edu/x3918.xml).

         Conduct research during North Central’s [Summer Undergraduate Research Colloquium](http://northcentralcollege.edu/pride/students-present-their-summer-research-campus) and present your findings at the [Rall Symposium for Undergraduate Research](http://northcentralcollege.edu/x2954.xml) or the [National Conferences for Undergraduate Research](http://www.ncur.org/).

**Department News**

         College offers new areas of study in chemical microscopy, bioinformatics and neuroscience (to come)

* <http://northcentralcollege.edu/news/pero-atanasov-earns-outstanding-major-computer-science-award>
* <http://northcentralcollege.edu/news/amy-krenn-earns-outstanding-major-biology-award>

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Careers**

With a bioinformatics minor from North Central College, you’ll be well-positioned to pursue a career in such fields as:

         Biological scientists who develop new drugs for pharmaceutical companies

        

Molecular modelers and bioinformatic software engineers who develop bioinformatic tools

Biostatisticians and computational biologists who analyze and integrate bioinformatic data

Hyperlinks:

<http://northcentralcollege.edu/majors/computer-science>

<http://northcentralcollege.edu/majors/biology>

Richter: <http://northcentralcollege.edu/x3918.xml>

SURC: <http://northcentralcollege.edu/pride/students-present-their-summer-research-campus>

Rall Symposium: <http://northcentralcollege.edu/x2954.xml>

NCUR: <http://www.ncur.org/>

**Feature**

**Grace Muganda**

Bioinformatics

Grace Muganda plans to complete her studies at North Central in 2012 with a double-major in biochemistry and computer science—two of the fields involved the study of bioinformatics. She’s an ideal example of why North Central decided to begin offering the opportunity to take courses beginning in fall 2011 toward a minor in bioinformatics.

“I love working in the lab and being around people who eat, breathe and sleep science,” says Grace. “It’s a great, big family inside the Science Center—a real community. It’s marvelous to talk about your work with the faculty and other students. You can talk to the professors about anything, anytime. I can go to them with questions about life, worries about graduate school—anything. They really care about us.

“You can get a great education here. I completed an internship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison last summer, and I was the only intern in the group who had written a lab report fit for publication. I’m confident I can go anywhere and do anything I want to do.”

In fact, she’s well on her way toward achieving her current goals of graduate study and, ultimately, a career in medical education. “I want to become dean of a medical school,” she says. Grace recently landed an internship at the University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine. “I’ll be assigned a mentor—either a Ph.D. or M.D. student—and we’ll do research together,” she says.

Grace was honored with the 2011 Outstanding Student in the Division of Science Award during Honors Day at North Central and recently received an honorable mention in the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater National Scholarship program.