

College of Charleston Summer 2012 Panama

Program Dates:

May 13 - June 2,
2012

Program Fee:

\$2,081*

(*subject to change and
does not include tuition)



Program Course:

BIOL 341: General Ecology

**BIOL 341 Lab:
General Ecology Lab**

Program Information:

This combined lecture and lab course in Ecology is a Biology core course and is required for Marine Biology majors. The proposed course will be offered in Maymester 2012, with approximately 0.4 weeks spent in Charleston and 2.6 weeks in Panama. The lecture portion of the course will focus on fundamental ecological concepts and terminology, with Caribbean/Central American examples whenever appropriate. The main incentive for the study abroad is to offer a significant portion of the laboratory in a tropical setting. The basic format of the lab consists of natural history labs, independent research projects, and class field experiments that demonstrate common ecological methods of data acquisition and analysis. A wide variety of terrestrial and marine habitats will be examined including coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, sandy beaches, rocky shores, wet and dry caves, tropical rain forest, and cloud forest.

Field work will require hiking in extreme high heat and humidity, and snorkeling; optional activities will include SCUBA and tree climbing (w/ rope system for canopy research). Students will also gain exposure to diverse local cultures and will have opportunities to learn about archaeology and Panamanian history.

Program Director:

Dr. Craig Plante, Department of Biology, plantec@cofc.edu, 843-953-9187

Dr. Plante is a tenured professor at the College of Charleston in the Biology Department. He has taught General Ecology (and lab) for 16 years. He also has taught Introductory Biology, and Environmental Studies at CofC, and is a faculty member in both the Masters in Environmental Science and Marine Biology Graduate Programs. In this capacity, he has taught Marine Ecology and Benthic Ecology and has contributed to graduate level courses in Oceanography, Deep-Sea Biology, and Environmental Biology. Dr. Plante has directed this program to Panama the past several summers.

To Apply:

Applications can either be downloaded from the CIE website, <http://international.cofc.edu>, or picked up in the CIE office. All applications must be submitted to **Julie Swigert, Study Abroad Coordinator, Center for International Education, swigertj@cofc.edu, 843-953-7823.**

The Program Fee of **\$2,081** includes a non-refundable \$50 application fee, round-trip airfare, all ground transportation, lodging, lab fees, most meals, medical insurance, and excursion fees. **TUITION FOR THE COURSE IS NOT INCLUDED.**

Application deadline is **March 2, 2012**. Deposit of \$550 will be posted to the student's MyCharleston account once the application has been submitted to, and approved by, the CIE. Scholarships of up to \$1500 are available to CofC students for study abroad. Eligibility is based on demonstrated financial aid and academic merit.