



The MS Biology program began in August 2022, following official accreditation. It is a two-year, thesis research-based Master's Degree. The program prepares graduates to enter many careers at a high level, for professional school (medicine, dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Veterinary, Quality Control, and Laboratory Sciences, etc.), or for further Ph.D. studies.



"86% of TCU (Tribal College & University) students complete their chosen program of study, while fewer than 10% of Native students who go directly from high school on their reservation to mainstream colleges and universities finish their bachelor's degree."  
- American Indian College Fund

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Admission Application with a non-refundable \$20.00 application fee (FYI for spring 2023 admission fee is covered by Fee Grant so no worries!).
- Official Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) or enrollment card.
- Official transcript with graduation date or equivalency credential (GED, HiSET, TASC, Dual Credit, College, WES).



### About Diné College

Diné College was founded in 1968 as the first tribal college (TCU) in the United States. Diné College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Located in Arizona and New Mexico on the Navajo Nation. Diné College predominately serves Navajo students (92%). The college is a four-year institution and offers master, bachelor's, Associate's degree and certificate programs. The main campus is in Tsaile, Arizona, along with other campuses, centers, and microsities in Shiprock, Tuba City, Windowrock, Crownpoint, Aneth, and Newcomb.

The school participates in athletic competitions in rodeo, archery and cross-country. The school is governed by an eightmember Board of Regents.

### Contact:

- Prof. Dr. Donald K. Robinson
- 877 988 DINE (3463)
- [www.dinecollege.edu](http://www.dinecollege.edu)
- [dkrobinson@dinecollege.edu](mailto:dkrobinson@dinecollege.edu)



# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM

DINÉ COLLEGE  
WHERE FUTURE BEGINS



[www.dinecollege.edu](http://www.dinecollege.edu)

## WHERE TO START?

Contact the Graduate faculty to discuss your interest & see if there is a place for you in their lab!

There are more subject areas of research being conducted by our many research faculty in the School of STEM.

Contact them directly, or contact Dr. Robinson and he can direct you to the appropriate faculty member.

Although this is a "Biology" program, many other disciplines can be linked to biology for this degree, such as psychology, public health, engineering, agriculture, and environmental health.

Even business, Diné Studies, history, philosophy, fine arts – all have a place in biology with appropriate context.

## GENERAL AREAS OF INTEREST AVAILABLE FOR STUDY:

Botany, Fungal science, Biomedical science, Virology, Wildlife studies, Behavioral medicine, Meditation physiology, Cellular and molecular methods in genetics, Genomics research, Medical microbiology, Electrophysiology, and more – see the description of each lab.



**DR. DONALD K. ROBINSON, PHD**

**DKROBINSON@DINECOLLEGE.EDU;**  
**928-724-6719**

Mentoring and research in meditation physiology studies, with applications to health, and to education. Expertise in cardiovascular physiology, endocrinology, chronic disease, geriatrics, Ayurvedic system of medicine. Also contact him for general information and questions about the MS Biology program. As Chair of the Biology Graduate Committee, he oversees the Biology Graduate Program organization and Research Assistantship funding.



**DR. DEMETRA SKALTSAS, PHD**  
**DNSKALTSAS@DINECOLLEGE.EDU;**  
**928-724-6710**

Biomedical Research Literacy through Bioprospecting of Endophytic Fungal for Potential Bioactive Metabolites on the Navajo Nation; Genome analysis. Many other training areas – call her, make your research interests a reality.

**DR. OLEKSANDR MAKEYEV, PHD**

**OMAKEYEV@DINECOLLEGE.EDU;**  
**928-724-6960; HTTP://MEALAB.DINECOLLEGE.EDU/**

### General research area:

Testing physical prototypes of their patented optimal configuration of the tripolar concentric ring electrode on real-life phantom data

### Biomedical Envisioned thesis topics/titles:

1. Validating the optimal design of tripolar concentric ring electrodes using physical electrode prototypes on real-life phantom data (i.e. confirming previously obtained analytical and finite element method modeling results for this design)
2. Assessing the possible effect of salt bridge shorting on a recorded signal using physical prototypes of the optimal tripolar concentric ring electrodes on real-life phantom data
3. Directly comparing optimal and commercially available bipolar and tripolar concentric ring electrode configurations on real-life phantom data.
4. Testing physical prototypes of our patented optimal configuration of the tripolar concentric ring electrode on real-life phantom data.

### Envisioned careers for graduates:

Electrophysiology (EEG, ECG, EMG, etc.), noninvasive and wearable sensors, and signal processing.



**DR. SHAZIA TABASSUM HAKIM, PHD**

**STABASSUM@DINECOLLEGE.EDU;**  
**928-283-5113 EXT: (0)7520; RES. LAB. 7538;**

### Google Scholar Link:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=r2InBDkAAAAJ&hl=en>

### The target research areas explored in Hakim's lab

- Our lives and Infectious Diseases go hand in hand: whether hepatitis viruses (HAV/HBV/HCV), AIDS virus or Dengue virus; genomics and, antivirals are much needed.
- Water is life and Waterborne Infectious Diseases are invited: Coliforms, H. pylori, Legionella, Giardia, Amoeba, Naegleria & Norvo virus infections.
- Crowd Sourcing for new antimicrobials from desert soil against Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms.
- Microbial analysis of wastewater effluent and decision support for reclamation.

### Some of the Current research project options

- Microbial analysis of water & Wastewater Effluent
- Potential water reuse in Agriculture
- Soil bacteria and herbs against ESKAPE pathogens and Candida; antimicrobial potential
- MicroRNAs a potential candidate for vaccines
- Association of H. pylori from water samples and peptic ulcers; molecular identification



**DR. KEVIN WEBSTER, PH.D.**

**WEBSTERKGD@GMAIL.COM;**  
**720-273-9410**

Recent studies have indicated that radon-220 (also called thoron) and its decay products are a more dangerous source of indoor radiation that the widely-studied radon-222. Dr. Webster's lab is interested in measuring Rn (Radon) and Thoron on the Navajo Nation to characterize radiation hazard and determine the best ways to mitigate present hazards. Some of his objectives includes:

1. Characterize the Rn-220 and Rn-222 in rocks with naturally occurring U and regions without naturally occurring U
2. Characterize the Rn-220 and Rn-222 in built structures with naturally occurring U and regions without naturally occurring U
3. Develop ways to mitigate the Rn hazard in structures