

Research Themes: An Introduction

Draft copy: 12 October 2006

Research Theme

The Foundations of Synergy

Western's vision of interdisciplinary science is dependent on developing synergies where they make sense. The Faculty of Science is establishing environments where departments, faculty and students can freely explore and exchange ideas to enrich the research of our faculty and the study modules of our students.



New Questions, New Approaches

While discipline-based research continues to thrive in individual departments throughout the Faculty of Science, the borders between each field of study have become less distinct. To take advantage of this potential for cross-disciplinary investigation, Western Science has developed a research plan co-ordinated about five general themes:

- Materials and Biomaterials;
- The Computational Sciences;
- Functional Genomics and Evolution;
- Environmental Science and Ecology; and
- Stellar Science (Planets and Stars).

Western's cultivation of science research within the context of the five themes has netted impressive gains.

- Fifteen Canada Research Chairs (CRC) with a breadth of research topics ranging from geomicrobiology, biocomputing, protein folding to synchrotron radiation;
- Quadrupling the annual research expenditures from \$10 million in 1996 to \$39.5 million in 2006;
- Twenty-eight recipients of the Ontario Premier's Research Excellence Awards (PREA).