

# BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, B.S.

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Majoring in biological sciences provides students with the foundation for a wide range of careers, including jobs in medicine\* and allied fields, education, biotechnology, environmental agencies and NGOs, science writing, forensic science, research, law, marine biology and more. Because our department offers a wide range of upper-level courses, students can explore a variety of fields of interest or focus on a specific area for a target career.

The B.S. concentration offers an inclusive range of courses designed to develop a solid foundation in biological principles, as well as specialization in areas such as integrative, plant, cancer, molecular, cellular and developmental biology. Additionally, students may take advantage of experiential learning courses with opportunities for undergraduate research and teaching. Majors prepare for future graduate studies or to enter their career field while honing their investigative and research skills, improving analytical and communication abilities and learning how to identify and solve problems using critical reasoning.

\*Pre-health students may especially benefit from the interdisciplinary neuroscience degrees offered at the university.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate a solid base of knowledge in Biology. Subjects such as cell and molecular biology, genetics, ecology and evolution, plant biology, and physiology are all crucial areas that will be mastered.
2. Students will analyze qualitative and quantitative data, assess validity of work and identify gaps in knowledge, and evaluate the results of analyses and experiments and decide on next steps.
3. Students will identify assumptions, create and evaluate hypotheses, and design relevant experiments.
4. Students will be trained to locate sources of information and to evaluate the quality of the information needed to make decisions. Students will be trained to critically read and discuss primary literature and evaluate its validity (on an appropriate level).
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to learn independently and then share that knowledge with others as well as to work collaboratively.

## Progression Requirement

Biological sciences majors may enroll in a biological sciences major course a maximum of twice to earn the required grade of C or higher. For the purposes of this standard of progression, withdrawal with a W does not constitute enrollment.

## Transfer Requirement

Any student applying for transfer to the biological sciences major from other programs within the University, or from other accredited colleges and universities, is required to have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale.