

Biology – Biology Track

School of Arts and Sciences



The Biology Department offers a variety of curricular opportunities to meet varied student interests. A student may select from several tracks within the Biology major, each of which has a slightly different occupational focus. In addition, a student in any major may opt to pursue a professional course of study, a Biology minor, or, in the case of education students, a major in Life Science education or a concentration in science for middle childhood students. Regardless of the option chosen, the curriculum for each student ensures exposure to the discipline of biology as a whole and provides an effective and relatively comprehensive education in a student's area of interest.

Biology Tracks

Biology
Life Science
Medical Technology

Pre-Professional Programs

Pre-Medicine
Pre-Dentistry
Pre-Veterinary
Podiatry - Accelerated Program
Pre-Physicians Assistant
Pre-Physical Therapy
Pre-Occupational Therapy

Biology Track

The biology track prepares the students for further study either in the biological sciences or in a variety of professional schools. Students granted the Bachelor of Arts in this biology track are successful in entering a broad array of graduate and professional programs.

Students generally enter graduate school either directly after receiving their B.A. or after a year or two of work in the field. Areas for graduate study are exceedingly numerous, including such fields as molecular biology, immunology, biochemistry, pathology, plant physiology and ecology to name a few. Depending on one's time and interest, graduate programs enable a student to obtain M.S., M.A., Ph.D. and D.S. degrees. Typically, the M.S. requires a year or two of study, whereas the Ph.D. requires four or five years, during which time candidates often receive a stipend. Although such graduates often engage in biomedical research, careers in health-related sectors of the economy such as public health or in public or corporate domains are attractive alternatives.

Biology majors most often enter the professional school of their choice shortly after graduation. Here, too, the choices can be daunting: medical schools grant their graduates the M.D., osteopathic schools the D.O., podiatry schools the D.P.M., dental schools the D.D.S. or D.M.D. and veterinary schools the D.V.M. Other career opportunities available to biology majors are post-baccalaureate professional programs in areas of allied health such as audiology, speech/language pathology, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy and physicians' assistant. In general, professional schools have a four year course of study leading to licensure to practice in the field.

Required Coursework

CH 105/L Principles of Chemistry I	3/1
CH 106/L Principles of Chemistry II	3/1
MAT 131 College Algebra (or higher)	4
BI 200/L Introductory Biology - Biodiversity, Form, Function and Ecology	3/1
BI 205/L Introductory Biology - Cells, Genetics, Energy Transfer and Evolution	3/1
BI 325/L Ecology	2/2
BI 430/L Cellular and Biochemical Processes	3/1
BI 435 Genetics	3/1
BI 400 Service Learning	1
BI 451 Departmental Seminar: Evolution	3
11 credits at the BI 300/400 level	11
TOTAL CREDITS	47

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Biology program pursue their interests in a variety of careers. Some obtain entry-level jobs to gain experience and develop their work skills; others seek additional education to enter specialized professional programs. Technologists must obtain clinical experience and become licensed to practice as professional audiologists, dietitians, occupational and physical therapists, perfusionists and as medical records technologists/administrators. Research biologists may work in academia, in government or in private research laboratories; industries also hire biologists to conduct research, do product development and testing. Similar post-graduate training enables individuals concentrating in environmental studies to obtain employment as environmental engineers, environmental attorneys and as health-safety analysts and inspectors. Often additional education and/or experience enables biology graduates to obtain more responsible positions with better compensation. Opportunities for biologists in education are as varied as those in technology and research. Teachers of biology are commonly employed in various educational institutions at the pre-college and college levels; museums, botanical gardens, aquariums, zoos, science centers and outdoor education programs offer the biology graduate many opportunities. Biologists are also employed by private corporations as training specialists to provide instruction and curriculum development as well as technical competence.

Ursuline College
Office of Admissions
2550 Lander Road
Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124
440 449 4203
1 888 URSULINE
admission@ursuline.edu



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