Biology is a broad science that includes many disciplines or specialties making it attractive to people with different aptitudes, backgrounds, and tastes. Knowledge of biology is essential to an intelligent evaluation of some of the major problems facing our own civilization, such as the energy crisis, environmental destruction, food resources, and population growth. The study of biology provides the opportunity to integrate, interpret, and translate biological phenomena and environmental observations into meaningful decisions. Many people view biological careers to be rewarding and significant. The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire offers a major and a minor in either liberal arts or teaching.

**Typical interests and values of biology majors:**
- Curiosity
- Concern for the environment
- Desire for intellectual growth
- Interest in living organisms
- Patience
- Precision and attention to details

**Knowledge and skills gained from studying biology:**

**Knowledge:**
Biology majors gain knowledge in four broad areas: investigation, research, quantitative, and analysis. Through investigation, students learn to identify problems, catalogue information, assess risks, and inspect specimens. Researchers then define problems, design experiments, and conduct studies. Then the data must be quantified, used to predict outcomes, determine probabilities, and create reports. Finally, data is analyzed through logical reasoning, evaluating the effects of particular phenomena, and making projections based on the collected data.

**Skills:**
- Ability to work independently and on a team
- Ability to operate scientific equipment
- Ability to research, analyze, and organize information
- Is accurate and precise
- Critical observation skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Oral and written communication skills
- Identifying alternative course of action
- Research and Investigation skills
- Organize people/tasks to achieve goals
- Accurately define problems and solutions
- Analyze ideas and events
- Assessing long-range effects
- Applying appropriate strategies and action plans

**Related student and professional organizations:**

**Student:**
- Tri-Beta/Biology Club
- Conservationists
- Molecular Movement
- Pre-Chiropractic Club
- Pre-Physician Assistant Club
- Pre-Med Club

**Professional:**
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Society for Conservation Biology
- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- American Zoo and Aquarium Association

**Career fields related to biology:**

**Potential Employers:**
Many biologists will work in a laboratory or in the field. Common employers of biology majors include aquariums, biological testing companies, hospitals, national & state parks, universities, pharmaceutical companies, research firms, and zoos.

**Potential Job Titles:**
- Aquatic Biologist
- Bio-Engineer
- Water Quality Tech
- Genetic Researcher
- Zoologist
- Chiropractor Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Ecologist
- Forster/Park Ranger
- Marine Biologist
- Dietitian/Nutritionist
Veterinarian  Conservation Biologist  Physician  Wildlife Biologist
Public Health Worker  Soil Conservationist  Botanist  Brewery Laboratory Assistant

Jobs you might also consider...
Clinical Laboratory Technician  Park Naturalist  Fish Production Technician  Athletic Trainer
Animal Scientist  Technical Writer  Environmental Health Specialist  Hazardous Materials Specialist

Sample entry level jobs held by UW-Eau Claire biology graduates:
• Clinical Technician-Cytogenetics, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN
• Environmental Technician, Natural Resources Consulting, Rice Lake, WI
• Park Ranger, U.S. Government, Spring Valley, WI
• Biologist, State of Hawaii, HI

Learn more about biology:
Department:
• Contact someone in UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Biology; Phillips 330, 836-4166
Services:
• Meet with a career counselor
• Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
• Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
• Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

Relevant Resources in the Career Discovery Center:
Yellow Section-
• Sigi3 bin:
  - Biology
• Book sections:
  - Science
  - Environmental
  - Health Care
Orange Section-
• “The Internship Series: The Big Green Internship Book-Internships and Summer Jobs for the Environment”
• Search the Internship Center Database and Blugold Career Link for job/internship opportunities

Blue Section-
• Resume, cover letter, interviewing, networking, and job search worksheets, books, and other resources

Opportunities to enhance skills in biology:
Research
There are many opportunities for students to participate in research to enhance the breadth of knowledge learned in the classroom. To learn about Research Experience for Undergraduates (REUs) visit the REU’s website, www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu. For additional information about research at UW-Eau Claire, contact the Department of Biology.

Internships
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in biology, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate or contact your adviser or the Department of Biology chair.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Speak with your adviser about enrolling in BIOL 395, 399, or 499.

Additional Opportunities
• Get a part-time job in a lab, a local hospital, or at a pharmacy as a technician
• Gain research experience by teaming with a biology (or related field) professor and conducting research
• Get a summer job as an assistant park ranger, a zookeeper, or at a summer camp to work outdoors with wildlife or animals
• Get an internship at a conservatory, the DNR, National Park Service, or the Bureau of Land Management
• If animals interest you, get a job at an animal hospital, a kennel, or a humane society
• Job shadow a professional in your area of interest or conduct informational interviews
• Get involved with the Pre-Med Career Exploration through Career Services