BIOLOGY

UW-EAU CLAIRE UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

Biology is the science of "life." It includes an array of subdisciplines such as ecology, evolution, botany, zoology, genetics, microbiology and molecular biology. Biological expertise is a vital component of the solutions to many problems facing our civilization from human health and disease to loss of biodiversity and environmental quality. The UW-Eau Claire biology program is designed to provide students the opportunity to integrate, interpret and translate biological phenomena and environmental observations and then use this information to make meaningful decisions.

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

- Biological careers can be fascinating and rewarding.
- Biologists frequently play a pivotal role in dealing with various challenges that face society.
- Students considering a biology major are often interested in serving the medical needs of people; working with fish and wildlife; conserving and restoring habitat; teaching biology; or discovering new facts through research or writing about biological aspects of plants, animals and microbes.
- Because of the variety of specialties, students with varying aptitudes, backgrounds and career objectives can succeed in biology.
- It is an exceptional foundation for careers in human biology, ecology, environmental biology, cell and molecular biology and in applied areas such as forestry, wildlife or biotechnology.
- Biology also is an excellent foundation for students planning to attend medical, dental, veterinary, chiropractic, physical therapy, physician's assistant or optometry schools.

THE EAU CLAIRE ADVANTAGE

- Students work with professors who are excellent and inspirational teachers. Unlike many other public universities, classes are not taught by teaching assistants and class sizes are small.
- The department prides itself in its faculty-undergraduate student collaborative research program. Students have the opportunity to engage in research with faculty in the lab and/ or field. Students work on projects across the state or country, conduct independent studies, co-author publications and present results at professional scientific meetings. Such experience is invaluable for entering graduate and medical school and pursuing a research career.
- UW-Eau Claire is a top-ranked comprehensive university nationwide among comparable university undergraduate biology programs for producing future female Ph.D.s
- Generous gifts and grants from a variety of foundations and governmental agencies have helped to supply the biology department with new and advanced equipment for innovative instruction.
- The department is housed within Phillips Science Hall, where it occupies the entire third floor. Departmental facilities include six general laboratories and 10 specialized laboratories, numerous research labs, three modern greenhouses, an animal care facility, the James Newman Clark Bird Museum and shared access to transmission and scanning electron microscopes and a Geographic Information System lab.
- The local region is great for field studies due to its abundance of lakes, streams, forests and wildlife areas. Adjacent to the Chippewa River and campus is Putnam Park, a 200-acre scientific natural area. The department also is associated with the Beaver Creek Citizen Science Research Center in Eau Claire County, the UW System Field Stations, the Mississippi Gulf Research Station and the Gerace Field Station in the Bahamas.
- For students interested in the human health professions and medical research, the city is near major hospitals and local clinics and within driving distance of Mayo and Marshfield Clinics.

UW-EAU CLAIRE FACTS AT A GLANCE

- Location: Eau Claire, Wis.; city pop. 64,000, metro. pop. 151,000
- Average enrollment: 10,500
- Undergraduates: 10,063
- Graduate students: 503
- International students: 124
- Multicultural students: 485
- Average men-women ratio: 2-to-3
- Students who spend at least a semester studying abroad: 24%
- Students doing undergraduate research with faculty/staff: 710+
- ACT composite average: 24+
- Average high school rank: 77%
- Average class size: 28
- Faculty-student ratio: 1-to-20
- Computers-student ratio: 1-to-9
- Student organizations: 224
- Walk across campus: About 10 minutes
- Nickname: Blugolds
- Colors: Navy and old gold

- Biology-related student organizations include Biology Club, The Conservationists, Beta Beta Beta National Biology Honor Society and several pre-health professional clubs.

CAREER OPTIONS

- Teach at the secondary level or earn a master's and/or doctorate degree to teach and/or conduct research at a college or university.
- Work for a governmental agency or non-governmental environmental organization as a researcher, technician, manager or planner.
- Work as a researcher or manager in a pharmaceutical company, hospital or industrial company.
- Become a licensed health professional such as a physician or dentist.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The UW-Eau Claire department of biology offers:

Majors

(requires a multidisciplinary minor or a minor offered by another department)

- Biology – liberal arts
- Biology – teaching

Comprehensive majors

(requires no minor)

- Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
- Biology – Ecology and Environmental Biology
- Biology – Organismal Biology
- Biology – Microbiology

Minors

- Biology – general
- Biology – teaching (The teaching minor, when combined with a teaching major in chemistry, physics-mathematics, physical science or physics, leads to a 6-12 certification in middle/secondary education programs.)

Multidisciplinary minors

- Environmental Science
- Marine Science
- Pre-professional Health Science

Pre-professional programs

- Pre-medicine, pre-physicians assistant, pre-veterinary, pre-dental, pre-optometry

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

- High school students planning to major in biology are expected to successfully complete courses in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, English composition and public speaking as part of their 17 units of college preparation.
- All students who enroll at UW-Eau Claire are required to have a minimum of 17 college preparatory units including:
  - 4 years of English (at least 3 composition and literature)
  - 2 years of a single foreign language
  - 3 years of math (algebra, geometry, 1 advanced college preparatory math)
  - 3 years of natural science
  - 3 years of social science (1 must be world or American history)
  - 2 additional units in the areas already mentioned or other academic areas

FRESHMAN COURSE WORK

Sample First Year

FALL SEMESTER

COURSE#	TITLE	CREDIT
Biol 110	Ecology and Evolution	4
Chem 103 or 115	General Chemistry Chemical Principles	5
	Mathematics	4
Social sciences or humanities general education		3

SPRING SEMESTER

COURSE#	TITLE	CREDIT
Biol 111	Cell Biology and Genetics	4
Chem 104 or 213	General Chemistry Quantitative Analysis	5
Engl 110	Introduction to College Writing	5
General education		3

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about UW-Eau Claire's programs in biology, contact:

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For more information about campus including costs, housing, admission requirements and tours:

ADMISSIONS
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