Biology

Biology is the science of life. It includes an array of subdisciplines such as botany, ecology, evolution, genetics, microbiology and molecular biology, and zoology. Biological and/or biotechnology expertise are vital components of the solutions to many problems facing our civilization, from human health and disease to loss of biodiversity and environmental quality.

Majors

- Biology - Liberal Arts
- Biology - Teaching

Comprehensive majors (no minor required)

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

Minors

- Biology - Liberal Arts
- Biology - Environmental Science
- Biology - Marine Science
- Biology - Teaching
- Biology - Neuroscience

Where you’ll find our grads

- Clinical Technician-Cytogenetics, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN
- Environmental Scientist, Cooper E. Engineering Co. in Rice Lake, WI
- Genotyping Technician, Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, WI
- Wildlife Biologist, Department of Natural Resources in Balsam Lake, WI
- Grad Work-Plant Systematics, University of California Berkley

Prepared for Success

Biology graduates go into a wide array of fields, becoming teachers, technicians, managers or planners for governmental agencies or environmental organizations, and health care professionals to name a few. The Biology major is an excellent foundation for students planning to attend medical, dental, veterinary, chiropractic, optometry, physical/occupational therapy and physician’s assistant schools. To learn more about health careers, students can utilize the Health Careers Center, where they will find advising resources, workshop information, program materials and course information to help them prepare for a biomedical graduate programs or health professional programs. 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.

Why UW-Eau Claire

Hands-On Experience

The local region is great for field studies due to its proximity to lakes, streams, forests and wildlife areas. Adjacent to the Chippewa River and campus is Putnam Park, a 200-acre scientific natural area. The department is also associated with Beaver Creek Reserve in Eau Claire County, the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (Ocean Springs, Mississippi) and the Gerace Research Centre (Bahamas), as well as offers regular course-based trips to

“The skills I have developed and practiced here have taught me how to be a better scientist and a better person. A solid understanding of science and an inclination towards people are integral parts of being a successful physician, and my time in the Galápagos has given me an improved notion of both.”

— Brady Olson | 2014 biology graduate | Former intern at the Charles Darwin Research Center, Galápagos Islands

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Biology (continued)

Costa Rica, the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos, rural Ecuador and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

For students interested in the human health professions and medical research, it is important to note that Eau Claire is home to several major clinics and hospitals including Sacred Heart and Mayo Clinic Health System, and smaller health care facilities such as the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic.

The department prides itself in its faculty-undergraduate student collaborative research program. Students engage in cutting edge research with faculty in the lab and/or field. Students work on projects across the state, country or international conduct independent studies, co-author publications and present results at professional scientific meetings.

Innovative Facilities

As one of the largest majors on campus, the Biology department spans three floors of Phillips Science Hall. Departmental facilities include 16 teaching 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.

Suggested Freshman Curriculum

- Foundations of Biology I II
- Critical Reading and Writing
- General Chemistry
- Mathematics
- University writing requirement—depending on placement exam
- General education electives