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
- Environmental Science
- Biology - Marine Science
- Biology - Teaching

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. (To learn more, visit uwec.edu/academics/institute-health-sciences/health-careers-center/) 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.

At UW-Eau Claire students receive a liberal arts education that will prepare them with the technical expertise needed to be a successful scientist, while also shaping them into a well-rounded professional with skills in communication, problem-solving, and creative thinking.

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

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University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire
Coast Research Laboratory (Ocean Springs, Mississippi) and the Gerace Research Centre (Bahamas). Regular course-based trips are offered to Costa Rica, the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos, rural Ecuador, Utah, Nebraska, 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.

Faculty Experts

All classes are taught by professors—not TAs—who are experts in their field and dedicated to helping their students succeed. Students will be able to get to know their faculty on a one-on-one basis.

Internships

The Biology department facilitates and financially supports internship opportunities that students are drawn to, such as internships with the Naples Zoo and the Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve in Ecuador.

Research Opportunities

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 and internationally to conduct independent studies, co-author publications and present results at professional scientific meetings. These valuable, hands-on experiences allow students to put what they learn in in the classroom into action outside of the classroom as scientists.

Innovative Facilities

Housing one of the largest majors on campus, the Biology department spans three floors of Phillips Science Hall. Departmental facilities include 14 teaching laboratories, numerous research labs, three modern greenhouses, an animal care facility and the James Newman Clark Bird Museum. Faculty and students have shared access to many other resources, including fluorescence electron microscopes, superspeed centrifuges, a tissue culture lab and a Geographic Information System lab.

First-Year Suggested Curriculum

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

Course Work / Pre-Professional Courses

Students have flexibility in their coursework: While there is a core set of courses students need to take, students can work with their professors/advisors to find a degree plan that works best for them.