This program leads to a profession which requires an occupational license as defined under Texas Occupations Code 58.001. This requires that all applicants seeking to become licensed must undergo a criminal background check prior to licensure. Students in this program should check with the College of Education and P-16 Integration on the requirements for a criminal background check prior to student teaching.

The Department of Biology is committed to excellence in instruction, scholarly accomplishment, research, professional service and student success. The Department provides a broad-based undergraduate education in Biology so as to give students the opportunity to pursue a career best-suited to their interests and abilities. Graduates are prepared to enter the workforce or continue their education in graduate or professional school. The Department provides rigorous pre-professional preparation for students seeking careers in biological sciences and health professions.

The Department also provides a service function to the University by providing a means for students to fulfill their science requirement. Non-majors receive instruction in scientific methods, a general overview of biology, new discoveries, and the importance of biology in society. An M.S. degree program provides the opportunity for advanced study, specialization, and research. The program prepares students for further graduate study at the doctorate level and for careers in the biological sciences and related disciplines.

The Department of Biology is committed to the discovery of new knowledge through research that is conveyed to professional and lay constituencies through publication and presentation and participation in policy decision-making. The Department of Biology also engages the community through outreach programs, continuing education, educational leadership, and collaborations with local school districts and governmental agencies. Faculty members are also encouraged to take leadership roles in societies of their research specialties.

A – GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS

Students must fulfill the General Education Core requirements. The courses listed below satisfy both degree requirements and General Education core requirements.

Required

020 - Mathematics – 3 hours
MATH 2413 Calculus I (or MATH 2487 Honors) three-hour lecture

030 - Life and Physical Science – 6 hours
CHEM 1311 General Chemistry I
CHEM 1312 General Chemistry II

080 - Social and Behavioral Sciences – 3 hours
PSYC 2301 General Psychology

090 - Integrative and Experiential Learning – 3 hours
CHEM 1111 General Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 1112 General Chemistry II Lab
BIOL 1406 General Biology I (or BIOL 1487 Honors) one-hour lab

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 60 HOURS (37 advanced minimum)*

1 – Life Sciences Foundation – 48 hours (28 advanced)*
BIOL 1406 General Biology I (or BIOL 1487 Honors) three-hour lecture
BIOL 1407 General Biology II (or BIOL 1488 Honors)
BIOL 3301 Biological Evolution
BIOL 3330 Functions and Modeling
Choose one:
  BIOL 3409 Ecology
  BIOL 3420 Environmental Biology
BIOL 3412 Cell Biology
BIOL 3413 Genetics
BIOL 4392 Research Methods in the Science and Mathematics Classroom (UTeach)
BIOL 4400 Biological Communication (Capstone)
CHEM 2123 Organic Chemistry Lab
CHEM 2323 Organic Chemistry
MATH 2413 Calculus I (or MATH 2487 Honors) one-hour lecture
PHIL 3317 Perspectives on Science and Mathematics
PHYS 1401 General Physics I
PHYS 1402 General Physics II
2 – Diversity of Life – 12 hours (9 advanced minimum)

Complete 12 advanced hours from the following sections:

a – Plants – 3 hours minimum (3 advanced minimum)

Choose at least one:
- BIOL 3408 Plant Morphology
- BIOL 4318 Ethnobotany
- BIOL 4405 Plant Physiology
- BIOL 4406 Mycology
- BIOL 4408 Plant Pathology
- BIOL 4410 Marine Botany
- BIOL 4414 Plant Taxonomy
- BIOL 4420 Plant Anatomy

b – Animals – 3 hours minimum

Choose at least one:
- BIOL 2428 Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
- BIOL 3345 Animal Nutrition
- BIOL 3405 Histology
- BIOL 3407 Comparative Embryology
- BIOL 3311 or 3411 Mammalian Physiology
- BIOL 3414 Invertebrate Zoology
- BIOL 4319 Medical Entomology
- BIOL 4402 Marine Zoology
- BIOL 4404 Ichthyology
- BIOL 4407 Animal Parasitology
- BIOL 4409 Herpetology
- BIOL 4411 Ecological Physiology of Animals
- BIOL 4412 Ornithology
- BIOL 4415 Entomology
- BIOL 4416 Mammalogy
- BIOL 4419 Aquatic Entomology
- BIOL 4427 Marine Animal Field Studies
- BIOL 4432 Animal Behavior

C – Microbiology – 4 hours minimum (4 advanced minimum)

Choose at least one:
- BIOL 3401 General Microbiology
- BIOL 3403 Medical Microbiology and Immunology
- BIOL 4413 General Virology
- BIOL 4417 Bacterial Genetics
- BIOL 4424 Microbial Ecology

C – UTEACH CERTIFICATION – 21 HOURS (19 advanced)

Area of Certification: Life Science (7-12)
- UTCH 1101 Inquiry Approaches to Teaching
- UTCH 1102 Inquiry-Based Lesson Design
- UTCH 3301 Knowing and Learning in Mathematics and Science
- UTCH 3302 Classroom Interactions
- UTCH 3303 Project-Based Instruction
- UTCH 4101 Apprentice Teaching Seminar
- UTCH 4601 Apprentice Teaching
- READ 4305 Disciplinary Literacy in Content Area Classrooms

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 123 HOURS*
TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS – 56 HOURS
ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:

Progression requirements
1. Admission to the College of Education is required for participation in Apprentice Teaching and Seminar (UTCH 4101, 4601). Students unable to be admitted to UTCH 4601 and UTCH 4101 will be required to substitute advanced hours to satisfy degree requirements, as recommended by advisor.

Graduation requirements
1. Minimum GPA of 2.75 is required for graduation. BIOL 1406 (or BIOL 1487 Honors), BIOL 1407 (or BIOL 1488 Honors), CHEM 1311/1111, CHEM 1312/1112, UTCH 1101, UTCH 1102, UTCH 3301, UTCH 3302, UTCH 3303, UTCH 4101, UTCH 4601 with a grade of ‘C’ or better grade in all of these courses; and approval of UTeach portfolio are required for graduation.
2. In addition to the graduation requirements listed in the UTRGV 2018-2019 Undergraduate Catalog, demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English is required at the undergraduate level equivalent to a minimum of six credit hours. Proficiency can be demonstrated by a college credit exam, a placement test approved through the UTRGV Department of Writing and Language Studies, and/or up to six credit hours of college-level language coursework.

*Amended on 4-5-19 – correction on progression requirements and hours in section B, B1, and total hours for graduation.

Previous:
- B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 61 HOURS (37 advanced minimum)
- 1 – Life Sciences Foundation – 49 hours (28 advanced)
- TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 124 HOURS

Previous:
Progression Requirements
Admission to the College of Education is required for participation in Apprentice Teaching and Seminar (UTCH 4101, 4601). Students unable to be admitted to UTCH 4601 and UTCH 4101 will be required to substitute 3 advanced hours, as recommended by advisor.