- Make your education a high priority in your life!
- Be sure to register for classes as soon as possible as upper level courses fill up quickly.
- Know your degree plan backwards and forwards so that you know exactly what you need to do to graduate. If you need assistance, please see your advisor or the Department Chair.
- Plan ahead for the courses that you want to take in the future so that you can be sure to complete all prerequisites before registering.
- Biological Communication (BIOL 4400) is a capstone course. You will need to have senior standing and have completed 15 upper level hours of Biology in order to take it.
- If you have any problems during registrations, please contact the Department Chair immediately to see if the problem can be fixed at the departmental level.

Graduation requirements: A 2.5 minimum GPA in Major Requirements is required for graduation.

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.
MILESTONES

ADVICE & SUPPORT

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

FIRST YEAR

- Complete major foundation classes, such as Biology, Evolution, and Genetics.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- If pursuing a healthcare profession: During summer register for a summer enrichment or graduate/professional school entrance exam prep course.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Register for the entrance exam for the graduate/professional school you are pursuing (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.).

SECOND YEAR

- Complete a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0. If you are pursuing a healthcare profession, you will need a competitive GPA.
- Take MATH 1342 or 1343 in your first year.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Choose a major with confidence- Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out Kuder Journey.
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about class.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group.
- Gold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.
- Attend a departmental program such as invited seminar or conference.
- Attend a diversity based campus or community event (e.g. MLK Day of Service).
- Attend a departmental program such as invited seminar speakers.
- Join a student organization! Consider joining into Vünk or visit Vünk (utrgv.edu/Vünk) for options.
- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Career Engagement icon. (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on the Career Center portal!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger - locate and attend one student workshop.
- Update your resume in Career Connection and have it reviewed.
- Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.
- If you are pursuing a health/medical field, you will need a competitive GPA. Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Register for the entrance exam for the graduate/professional school you are pursuing (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.).

THIRD YEAR

- Complete a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0. If you are pursuing a healthcare profession, you will need a competitive GPA.
- Take MATH 1342 or 1343 in your first year.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Choose a major with confidence- Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out Kuder Journey.
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about class.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group.
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- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.
- If you are pursuing a health/medical field, you will need a competitive GPA. Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Register for the entrance exam for the graduate/professional school you are pursuing (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.).

FOURTH YEAR

- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center/ your major.
- Register for your Capstone/summer/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate/professional school, an apprenticeship, or for full-time employment.
- Engage in an independent study project or an academic internship to complement your major, such as Biology Research Problems.
- Discuss future plans with your faculty mentor or advisor that includes employment, finances, and other life goals.
- Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center to ensure you are on track.
- Join a professional organization such as Texas Academy of Sciences.
- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or at Texas Academy of Sciences meeting.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.
- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, etc. The Career Center can help.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.
- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or related graduate school? If so, celebrate! If not, continue to job search! Attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
- Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni networking events and continued access to Career Center services!
- Remember to do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

CAREERS

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Optometry
- Podiatry
- Pharmacy
- Veterinary medicine
- Allied health: occupational therapy, physical therapy
- Medical technology
- Nuclear medicine

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out “What Can I Do With This Major?” www.utrgv.edu/careercenter