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.

### ACADEMIC PLAN

**BIOLOGY (BS)**

**Catalog:** 2017-18

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCES**

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**FOURTH YEAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 4400 Biological Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 34XX-44XX Major Advanced Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 4309 Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**SECOND YEAR**

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 34XX-44XX Major Advanced Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3409 Ecology</td>
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**THIRD YEAR**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 34XX-44XX Major Advanced Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 4309 Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**CONTACT INFO**

**Department Chair**
Dr. Frederic Zaidan III
Frederic.zaidan@utrgv.edu

**Associate Department Chair**
Dr. Daniele Provenzano
Daniele.provenzano@utrgv.edu

**Department Office:**
956-665-3537
Diana.ocanas@utrgv.edu

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**ADDITIONAL INFO**

- 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: Minimum 44 credit hours in Biology and 2.50 Biology GPA; At least 36 upper division hours in Biology.

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**DEGREE INFO**

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**FIRST YEAR**

- Complete your core English classes (section D10) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.3-4.0.
- If you are pursuing a healthcare profession, you will need a competitive GPA.
- Take MATH 1342 or 1344 in your first year.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation 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.
- Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.

**SECOND YEAR**

- Complete major foundation courses, 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.
- Want to explore different careers? Check out Kuder or visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholar Symposia.

**THIRD YEAR**

- 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.).
- Seek out research opportunities. Visit our website www.utrgv.edu/biology to see what types of research our faculty does. Get in touch with a faculty member and discuss the possibility of you joining their lab.
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.

**FOURTH YEAR**

- "I have a plan for after graduation." This describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center your senior year.
- Register for your Capstone/thesis/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.

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**MILESTONES**

- Apply for a GPA of 3.3-4.0.

**ADVICE & SUPPORT**

- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation 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.

**GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Look for a service-learning course. For guidance, visit My.UTRGV.edu.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.

**LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

- 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.).

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**CAREERS**

- Research and Development
  - Basic
  - Applied
  - Quality control
  - Administration
  - Grant writing
- Healthcare
- Public and private schools, K-12
- Two-year community colleges/technical institutes
- Four-year institutions
- Professional schools: colleges of pharmacy, dentistry, medicine, veterinary medicine, and agriculture
- Museums
- Zoos
- Nature centers and parks

**WEB PAGE**

www.utrgv.edu/careercenter