• 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 registration, please contact biology@utrgv.edu immediately to see if the problem can be fixed at the departmental level.
• Graduation requirements: Minimum 58 credit hours and 2.50 GPA in Major Requirements; At least 28 upper division/advanced hours in biology major and 42 advanced overall.
**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 3.5-4.0. 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 MyMajors...
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about the ideas discussed in class.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Take MATH 1342 or 1343 in your first year.
- Look for a service-learning course! For guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- 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 such as the Pre-Med/Bio-Med club! Visit Vink (utrgv.edu/vink) for options.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as Biology, Evolution, and Genetics.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- 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.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! Register for your Capstone/semi/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.

**SECOND YEAR**

- Choose a major with confidence- Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out MyMajors...
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about the ideas discussed in class.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- 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 such as the Pre-Med/Bio-Med club! Visit Vink (utrgv.edu/vink) for options.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as Biology, Evolution, and Genetics.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- 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.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! Register for your Capstone/semi/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.

**THIRD YEAR**

- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about the ideas discussed in class.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- 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 such as the Pre-Med/Bio-Med club! Visit Vink (utrgv.edu/vink) for options.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as Biology, Evolution, and Genetics.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- 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.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! Register for your Capstone/semi/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.

**FOURTH YEAR**

- Choose a major with confidence- Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out MyMajors...
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about the ideas discussed in class.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- 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 such as the Pre-Med/Bio-Med club! Visit Vink (utrgv.edu/vink) for options.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as Biology, Evolution, and Genetics.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
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- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.

**LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

- Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships/employment opportunities.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake.
- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Join a student organization such as the Pre-Med/Bio-Med club! Visit Vink (utrgv.edu/vink) for options.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! Register for your Capstone/semi/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.

**GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Complete 30 credit hours.
- 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.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! Register for your Capstone/semi/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.

**APPLICATION & SUPPORT**

- 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.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! Register for your Capstone/semi/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.

**CAREERS**

For those looking to to attend pre-professional health related graduate programs in fields such as:

- 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