

FOURTH YEAR

Choose 1	Biology Major Elective:	BIOL 3409	Ecology
		X3XX-X3XX	Free Elective
		34XX-44XX	Free Advanced Elective
Choose 1	Free Advanced Elective	34XX-44XX	Social and Behavioral Sciences: (Aside from SOCI 1301/PSYC 2301)
		Choose 1	Biology Major Elective:
		BIOL 4400	Group C Organismal/Environmental Biological Communication (Capstone)

THIRD YEAR

BIOL 3413	Genetics	CHEM 2325	Organic Chemistry II
		CHEM 2125	Organic Chemistry II Lab
Choose 1	Government/Political Science	Choose 1	Government/Political Science
		PHYS 1401	General Physics I
Choose 1	Biology Major Elective:	Choose 1	Integrative/Experiential Learning
		PHYS 1402	General Physics II
		CHEM 3303	Biochemistry I
Choose 1	Government/Political Science	Choose 1	Government/Political Science

SECOND YEAR

CHEM 1312	General Chemistry II	BIOL 1112	General Chemistry II Lab
33XX - 44XX	BIOL Elective	Choose 1	Language, Philosophy & Culture:
			(PHIL 1300, PHIL 1301 or PHIL 1366)
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	Choose 1	American History (Core)
BIOL 3301	Biological Evolution	Choose 1	Integrative/Experiential Learning Option
CHEM 2323	Organic Chemistry I	CHEM 2123	Organic Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 2223	Organic Chemistry I Lab	Choose 1	Creative Arts
Choose 1	American History	Choose 1	American History

FIRST YEAR

Choose 1	Communication	BIOL 1406	General Biology I
SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology	Choose 1	MATH 1342 Elementary-Statistical Methods or MATH 1343 Biostatistics
UNIV 1301	Learning Framework	Choose 1	Communication
BIOL 1407	General Biology II	CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I Lab	CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I Lab
X3XX	Free Elective		

2019-2020 ACADEMIC PLAN

Courses in red are part of the General Education Core Curriculum (GEC). "Choose 1" indicates course options. If options are not listed, please review the General Education Core or the degree plan for this major: www.utrgv.edu/degreeplans.

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 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.

Contact Info

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UTRio Grande Valley

BLUE
PRINT

BIOLOGY (BS)
***Biological Sciences**
Catalog: 2019-20
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Degree Info

The Department provides a broad-based undergraduate education in Biology so as to give students the opportunity to pursue careers in biological sciences and health professions.

Biology students study:

- Biological systems: molecular, genetic, cellular, physiological, and ecological.
- Biology of whole organisms: humans, evolution, and biological diversity.
- Applied Biology: cancer, food safety, and vector-borne diseases.

BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

CAREERS

MILESTONES

- UTRGV has 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.

ADVICE & SUPPORT

- 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.
- Cultivate professional relationships with faculty in your major.
- 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.

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

- 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.

GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
- 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 VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center or the student organization in your intended field (e.g. pre-Vet Club) 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 Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger- locate and attend one student workshop.

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as Ecology, 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 MyMajors!
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor.
- Introduce yourself to the health professions faculty advisor (Edinburg: Scott Gunn, scott.gunn@utrgv.edu; Brownsville, gustavo.stern@utrgv.edu).
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Continue to nourish professional relationships with faculty in your major.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.

- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholar Symposium.

- Look at study abroad opportunities! Consider going to some place exciting!
- Check out or volunteer for a cultural campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
- Join another student organization. Perhaps VLink or visit VLink for options.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch- bring a friend!

- Update your resume in Handshake 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, begin shadowing healthcare professionals.

- 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.).
- Seek out research opportunities. Visit our website (www.utrgv.edu/biology) to see faculty research. Contact a faculty member and discuss joining their lab.
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.
- Apply for internship and/or job shadowing opportunities. Discuss this with your advisor, faculty mentor, or Career Center.
- Discuss potential letters of reference with your faculty mentors.
- Schedule an appointment with the health professions faculty advisor to discuss future goals. Come prepared with questions and discuss applying to health professions schools.

- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Visit the Writing center or become the secretary for your organization.

- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference. Visit VLink or speak with your Student Government Association for more information!
- Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.

- Check out the Biology department website for postings on career/graduate school.
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks' advance notice!
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Most do not accept late applicants!

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5-4.0.
- "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/senior/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate/professional school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime 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 a Texas Academy of Science 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 an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
- Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
- Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events and continued access to Career Center services!
- Remember to do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

For those looking 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