

FIRST YEAR

Choose 1	Communication	BIOL 1406	General Biology I
Choose 1	General Chemistry I Lab	CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
Choose 1	Social and Behavioral Sciences	CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I Lab
Choose 1	MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical	CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
Choose 1	Methods or MATH 1343 Introduction to Biostatistics	CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
UNIV 1301	Learning Framework	CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
Choose 1	Communication	BIOL 1407	General Biology II
Choose 1	General Chemistry II Lab	CHEM 1312	General Chemistry II
Choose 1	General Chemistry II	CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II Lab
Choose 1	Integrative/Experiential Learning	CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II Lab

SECOND YEAR

CHEM 2323	Organic Chemistry I	CHEM 2123	Organic Chemistry I Lab
BIOL 3301	Biological Evolution	BIOL 3413	Genetics
Choose 1	Language, Philosophy & Culture	BIOL 34XX-	Major Advanced Elective
Choose 1	American History	44XX	
Choose 1	American History	Choose 1	American History
Minor		Minor	
X3XX-X3XX		X3XX-X3XX	

THIRD YEAR

BIOL 3409	Ecology	34XX-44XX	Biology Advanced Elective: (BIOL 3000/4000 level)
Choose 1	Government/Political Science	Choose 1	Government/Political Science
Minor		Minor	
X3XX-X3XX		X3XX-X3XX	
Free Elective		Free Elective	
Choose 1	Government/Political Science	Choose 1	Government/Political Science
BIOL 34XX-	Major Advanced Elective	BIOL 34XX-	Major Advanced Elective
Choose 1	American History	Choose 1	American History
Minor		Minor	
X3XX-X3XX		X3XX-X3XX	
Free or Advanced Elective		Free or Advanced Elective	
X3XX-X3XX		X3XX-X3XX	

FOURTH YEAR

33XX-43XX	Biology Advanced Elective: (BIOL 3000/4000 level)	Choose 1	Biology Major Elective: (BIOL 3000/4000 level)
Group C Ecological/Environmental		Group C Ecological/Environmental	
Minor (Advanced)		Minor (Advanced)	
Choose 1	Creative Arts	Choose 1	Creative Arts
33XX-43XX	Minor (Advanced)	33XX-43XX	Minor (Advanced)
Free Elective		Free Elective	
BIOL 4400	Biological Communication (Capstone)	BIOL 4400	Biological Communication (Capstone)

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.

2019-2020 ACADEMIC PLAN

UTRio Grande Valley

BLUE
PRINT

BIOLOGY (BS)
*Biology with minor
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.

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 44 credit hours in Biology and 2.50 Biology GPA; At least 32 upper division/advanced hours in biology major and 42 advanced overall.

Contact Info

Interim Department Chair
Dr. Kristine Lowe
Kristine.lowe@utrgv.edu

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

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

For overrides, waitlists, etc.:
biology@utrgv.edu

BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

CAREERS

MILESTONES

- UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year 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 Biology 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 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.
- 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.
- Will a minor expand your career options? We recommend Chemistry.
- 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? Visit 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 the Texas Academy of Science.

- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or at 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.

- 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
- Vector-Borne Disease prevention
- Laboratory research technician
- Natural resources technician

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