

2019-2020 ACADEMIC PLAN

FIRST YEAR

Choose 1	Communication
BIOL 1406	General Biology I
CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I Lab
PSYC 2301	General Psychology
UTCH 1101	Inquiry Approaches to Teaching
UNIV 1301	Learning Framework
Choose 1	Communication
BIOL 1407	General Biology II
CHEM 1312	General Chemistry II
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II Lab
MATH 2413	Calculus I
UTCH 1102	Inquiry-Based Lesson Design
Choose 1	American History

SECOND YEAR

CHEM 2323	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 2123	Organic Chemistry I Lab
Choose 1	Government/Political Science
Choose 1	Creative Arts
Choose 1	Integrative/Experiential Learning
Choose 1	Language, Philosophy & Culture
BIOL 3301	Biological Evolution
Choose 1	Government/Political Science
PHYS 1401	General Physics I
UTCH 3301	Math & Science Learning
Choose 1	American History

THIRD YEAR

BIOL 3413	Genetics
PHYS 1402	General Physics II
Choose 1	BIOL 3409 Ecology or
PHIL 3317	Perspectives on Science & Mathematics
READ 4305	Disciplinary Literacy in Content Area
Classrooms	
BIOL 3412	Cell Biology
UTCH 3302	Classroom Interactions
BIOL 4392	Research Methods in the Science
Choose 1	& Mathematics Classroom (UTeach)
Choose 1	Biology Major Elective:
	Plants Group
	Major Elective:
	(Additional Plants, Animals or Micro course)

FOURTH YEAR

UTCH 3303	Project-Based Instruction
BIOL 4400	Biological Communication (Capstone)
BIOL 3330	Functions and Modeling
Choose 1	Biology Major Advanced Elective:
	Microbiology Group
	Biology Major Advanced Elective:
	Animals Group
UTCH 4101	Apprentice Teaching Seminar
UTCH 4601	Apprentice Teaching

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.

Degree Info

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

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.

Additionally, UTeach provides a proven pathway for teacher certification.

UTRio Grande Valley

BLUE
PRINT

BIOLOGY (BS)
*7th- 12th Life Sciences UTeach
Certification
Catalog: 2019-20
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Contact Info

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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.
- 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.
- Admission to the College of Education is required for participation in Apprentice Teaching and Seminar (UTCH 4101, 4601). Students unable to be admitted to UTCH 4601 and UTCH 4101 will be required to substitute advanced hours to satisfy the degree requirements, as recommended by advisor.
- Minimum GPA of 2.75 is required for graduation. BIOL 1406 (or BIOL 1487 Honors), BIOL 1407 (or BIOL 1488 Honors), CHEM 1311/ 1111, CHEM 1312/1112, UTCH 1101, UTCH 1102, UTCH 3301, UTCH 3302, UTCH 3303, UTCH 4101, UTCH 4601 with a grade of 'C' or better grade in all of these courses; and approval of UTeach portfolio are required for graduation.

BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

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.
- Take MATH in your first year. This degree requires MATH 2313 Calculus I.

ADVICE & SUPPORT

- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Introduce yourself to the UTeach program academic advisor.
- 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 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.

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! Consider looking into VLink or 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.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as Biological Evolution.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Admission to the College of Education and P-16 Integration is required to be admitted into UTCH 4601 Apprentice Teaching and UTCH 4101 Seminar.
- Apply to the TEP program. Visit www.utrgv.edu/cep for more information.

- Want to explore different careers? Check out MyMajors!
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic/UTeach advisor.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- 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 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.

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.

- Seek out research opportunities. Visit our website (www.utrgv.edu/biology) to see what types of research our faculty does. After finding people who conduct research that interests you, the next step is to get in touch with them and talk about the possibility of you 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.
- Schedule an appointment with your UTeach advisor to discuss future goals.

- 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.
- "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 courses: BIOL 4400, UTEACH 4601 and UTCH 4101.
- Complete the final version of your UTeach Portfolio.
- 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 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 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.

CAREERS

- Teaching:
 - Elementary
 - Secondary
 - Post-secondary
- Non-classroom education
- Some Areas of Specialization:
 - Botany
 - Ecology: behavioral, community, ecosystem, evolutionary, population biology
 - Conservation biology
 - Entomology
- Marine biology
- Genetics
- Microbiology: bacteria, algae, fungi, molds, yeasts, viruses, protozoa
- Taxonomy
- Zoology

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