• 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.

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.
**FIRST YEAR**
- UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 001) 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.
- 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.
- Look for a service-learning course! For guidance, visit www.utrgv.edu/cep—sponsored community service projects.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through MyUTRGV.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 the Student Government.
- 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.
- Learn about different ways you can engage in campus life. Visit our website for service-learning opportunities.

**SECOND YEAR**
- 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 UTeach 4601 Apprentice Teaching and 4610 Seminar.
- Apply to the TEP program. Visit www.utrgv.edu 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 the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Visit the Writing center or become the secretary for your organization.
- Look at study abroad opportunities! Consider MyMajors to see what types of programs are available.
- 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 to register for.
- 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 your options.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.
- 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 twice their advance notice!
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visit the program admissions webpage. Most do not accept late applications!

**THIRD YEAR**
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5.
- 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.
- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or at Texas Academy of Sciences meetings.
- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at career fairs, or for fulltime employment.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- 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/thesis/project paper course. BIOS 4400, UTEACH 4601 and UCH 4201.
- 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 Projects.
- 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 meetings.
- Complete the final version of your UTeach Portfolio.
- Apply for internship and/or job shadowing opportunities. Discuss this with your advisor, faculty mentor, or Career Center.

**AND BEYOND**
- Apply to the TEP program. Visit www.utrgv.edu/cep—sponsored community service projects.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through MyUTRGV.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 for options.
- 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.
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- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger—locate and attend one student workshop.

**GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
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- Introduce yourself to the UTeach program academic advisor.
- Choose a major with confidence—Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out MyMajors.
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**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: bacterias, 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