

## FOURTH YEAR

PHIL 3317 Perspectives on Science  
 BIOL 4400 Biological Communication  
 and Mathematics  
 BIOL 4101 Apprentice Teaching Seminar  
 UTCH 4101 Apprentice Teaching  
 UTCH 4601  
 MATE 3305 Fundamentals of Statistics  
 (Capstone)  
 UTCH 3303 Project-Based Instruction  
 and Probability  
 33XX-43XX Major Advanced Elective  
 GEOL 3401 Geomorphology  
 33XX-43XX Major Advanced Elective  
 UTCH 3302 Classroom Interactions  
 GEOL 3401 Geomorphology  
 BIOL 3301 Biological Evolution  
 BIOL 4392 Research Methods in the Science  
 & Mathematics Classroom (UTeach)  
 READ 4305 Disciplinary Literacy in Content Area  
 Classrooms  
 ASTR 1401 Introduction to Astronomy I  
 UTCH 4101 Apprentice Teaching Seminar  
 UTCH 4601 Apprentice Teaching

## THIRD YEAR

GEOL 3405 Oceanography  
 GEOG 2313 Principles of Geography  
 ENVR 1401 Intro to Environmental Science I  
 Physics Elementary  
 33XX-43XX Major Advanced Elective  
 UTCH 3302 Classroom Interactions  
 GEOL 3401 Geomorphology  
 BIOL 3301 Biological Evolution  
 BIOL 4392 Research Methods in the Science  
 & Mathematics Classroom (UTeach)  
 READ 4305 Disciplinary Literacy in Content Area  
 Classrooms  
 ASTR 1401 Introduction to Astronomy I

## SECOND YEAR

Choose 1 PSCI 1422 Physical Science II or  
 PHYS 1402 General Physics II  
 Choose 1 Government/Political Science  
 Social and Behavioral Science  
 CHEM 1311 General Chemistry I  
 CHEM 1111 General Chemistry I Lab  
 Choose 1 Integrative/Experiential Learning  
 BIOL 3330 Functions and Modeling  
 Choose 1 Government/Political Science  
 Creative Arts  
 UTCH 3301 Math & Science Learning  
 GEOL 1403 Physical Geology

## FIRST YEAR

Choose 1 Communication  
 BIOL 1407 General Biology II  
 Choose 1 PSCI 1421 Physical Science I or  
 PHYS 1401 General Physics I  
 Choose 1 Language, Philosophy & Culture  
 American History  
 Choose 1 Inquiry Approaches to Teaching  
 Learning Framework  
 UNIV 1301  
 Choose 1 Communication  
 BIOL 1406 General Biology I  
 MATH 2413 Calculus I  
 Choose 1 American History  
 Inquiry Approaches to Teaching  
 Learning Framework  
 UNIV 1301  
 Choose 1 Communication  
 BIOL 1407 General Biology II  
 Choose 1 PSCI 1421 Physical Science I or  
 PHYS 1401 General Physics I  
 Choose 1 Language, Philosophy & Culture  
 American History  
 Choose 1 Inquiry-Based Lesson Design

### 2019-2020 ACADEMIC PLAN

“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](http://www.utrgv.edu/degreeplans). Courses in red are part of the General Education Core Curriculum (GEC).

### 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.

#### Progression requirements

Admission to the College of Education and P-16 Integration 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.

#### Graduation requirements

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.

Degree requires 33 advanced hours for the major and 52 advanced hours overall.

### Contact Info

**Department Chair**  
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UTRio Grande Valley™

BLUE  
 PRINT

**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (BIS)**  
**\*Life Sciences 4-8 UTeach**  
**Catalog: 2019-20**  
**COLLEGE OF SCIENCES**

### 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.

# 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 3.0.
- Take MATH in your first year. See degree plan for options

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.0.
- Complete major foundation classes. See degree plan for options.
- 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](http://www.utrgv.edu/cep) for more information.

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.0.
- 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 3.0.
- "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. Please see degree plan for options.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.

### 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](http://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.

- Want to explore different careers? Check out Major 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

- Seek out research opportunities within your major and join a professional organization.
- 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.

- Engage in an independent study project or an academic internship to complement your major.
- 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.

### 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.

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

- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Take an intensive writing course, visit the Writing Center, or become the secretary for your organization.

- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

### GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through [My.UTRGV.edu](http://My.UTRGV.edu).
- Attend a diversity based campus or community event (e.g. MLK Day of Service).
- Attend a departmental program!
- Join a student organization! Visit VLink ([utrgv.edu/vlink](http://utrgv.edu/vlink)) for options.

- Look at study abroad opportunities!
- Check out a cultural campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
- Join another student organization. Visit VLink for options.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch- bring a friend!

- 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.

- 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.

### LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: ([My.UTRGV.edu](http://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.

- 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? Discuss this with your Academic Advisor.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.

- Check out our 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!

- 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](http://studentloans.gov).

## CAREERS

- Teaching
  - Elementary
  - Secondary
  - Post-secondary
- Non-classroom education
- Technical writing
- Editing
- Illustrating
- Photography
- Public relations
- Public/private schools
- Museums
- Zoos
- Nature centers/parks
- Scientific magazines
- Professional journals
- Periodicals
- Textbooks
- Online publishers
- Educational and scientific software companies
- Environmental organizations
- Government agencies
- Nonprofit organizations

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