

Department/School: Biology

Vision: In preparation

Mission: In preparation

PROFILE

Majors: BS in Biology: Concentration in Biological Sciences; BS in Biology with a Minor; BS in Life Sciences (UTeach 7-12 Certification); BIS in Middle School Life Science (UTeach Middle School 4-8 Certification)

Graduate Programs: MS in Biology

Students

- Number of Students: 2,561
- Characteristics: (e.g., graduate, undergraduate) 83 graduate; 2,478 undergraduate [Fall 2019]

Faculty

- Number of Faculty: 49
- Ranks: Professors 12 Associate Prof. 8 Assistant Prof. 8 Lecturers 21

Campus Program Offering

97 % of program/courses are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, or ITV*)

100 % of program/courses in the first 2 years of study per major map are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

100 % of program/courses in the upper division are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

100 % of graduate program/courses are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

Note: You may include details of availability by campus and any other related information that would be helpful.

Stats & Highlights:

- The Department of Biology has the largest number of student majors in the College of Sciences and at UTRGV.
- The MS in Biology graduate program grew 40% in last 3 years.
- The Center for Vector Borne Diseases is housed within the Department of Biology.
- The department receives major research funding from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, USDA, the CDC and other state, national and international funding agencies.
- Biology faculty and staff are active in many service activities on UTRGV campuses, in the community and within their professional organizations.
- Many faculty members have leadership positions at UTRGV, serve on university-level committees, and serve as the Chair for many college and university committees.
- Faculty members mentor students in the MSA and in summer high school programs.
- Faculty members teach MSA courses and dual-credit programs.
- Biology offers General Biology I and II course in bilingual format as part of the B3 initiative.
- Department hosts a weekly seminar series.
- Department funds a grant coaching and writing program for faculty and other faculty development activities.
- Approximately 300 students participate in formal research at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Department maintains a pollinator garden on the Brownsville campus to attract bees and other pollinators, and for research on the role and fate of pollinators.

Success Stories/"Bragging":

- UTRGV Department Excellence Award for Faculty Mentoring (2018)
- Dr. Robert Dearth, Outstanding Graduate Program Coordinator (2018-2019)
- Dr. Teresa Patricia Feria, Fred W. and Frances H. Rusteberg Faculty Fellowship in Science and Technology (2018)
- Dr. Robert Gilkerson, New Faculty Mentor of the Year Award (2019)
- Dr. Teresa Patricia Feria, UTRGV Excellence Award in Community Engaged Scholarship (2018)
- Mrs. Bonnie Gunn, UTRGV Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching (Non-Tenure Track) (2018)
- Mrs. Bonnie Gunn, Accessibility Achievement Award (2016, 2017)
- Dr. Megan Keniry, College Award for Excellence in Teaching (2018)
- Dr. Teresa Patricia Feria, Outstanding International Faculty Female (2018)
- Dr. Rupesh Kariyat, Entomological Society of America SW Branch Excellence in Teaching Award (2019)
- Dr. Mirayda Torres-Avila, Excellence in Community Engagement (2019)
- Dr. Nirakar Sahoo, UT System Rising Star Award (2018)
- Dr. Rupesh Kariyat, UT System Rising Star Award (2018)
- Dr. Kathryn Perez and her students discovered a new snail species in 2017.

Traditions: The department holds an annual Chili Cook Off in the fall, hosts Taco Tuesdays in Brownsville, conducts a student Halloween contest and a holiday lab door decorating contest.

Mantra/Slogan: In preparation