

Choose 1	Communication (Core)
BIOL 1406	General Biology I
CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I Lab
Choose 1	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Core)
MATH 1342	Elementary Statistical Methods
UNIV 1301	Learning Framework
Choose 1	Communication (Core)
BIOL 1407	General Biology II
CHEM 1312	General Chemistry II
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II Lab
Choose 1	Integrative/Experiential Learning Option (Core)

FIRST YEAR

CHEM 2323	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 2123	Organic Chemistry I Lab
BIOL 3301	Biological Evolution
Choose 1	Language, Philosophy & Culture (Core)
Choose 1	American History (Core)
X3XX-X3XX	Minor
BIOL 3413	Genetics
BIOL 33XX-43XX	Major Advanced Elective
Choose 1	American History (Core)
X3XX-X3XX	Minor
X3XX-X3XX	Free Elective
X3XX-X3XX	Minor
X3XX-X3XX	Free Elective
X3XX-X3XX	Free Elective
X3XX-X3XX	Free Elective

SECOND YEAR

BIOL 3409	Ecology
BIOL 34XX-44XX	Major Advanced Elective
Choose 1	Government/Political Science
X3XX-X3XX	Minor
X3XX-X3XX	Free Elective
Choose 1	Government/Political Science
Choose 1	Government/Political Science (Core)
BIOL 33XX-43XX	Major Advanced Elective
X3XX-X3XX	Minor
X3XX-X3XX	Free Elective

THIRD YEAR

BIOL 34XX-44XX	Major Advanced Elective
BIOL 33XX-43XX	Major Advanced Elective
33XX-43XX	Minor (Advanced)
Choose 1	Creative Arts (Core)
33XX-43XX	Minor (Advanced)
BIOL 34XX-44XX	Major Advanced Elective
X3XX-X3XX	Free Elective
BIOL 4400	Biological Communication (Capstone)

FOURTH YEAR

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 registrations, please contact the Department Chair 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 36 upper division hours in Biology.

Contact Info

Department Chair
Dr. Frederic Zaidan III
Frederic.zaidan@utrgv.edu

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

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

UTRio Grande Valley

BLUE PRINT

BIOLOGY (BS)
***Biology with minor**
Catalog: 2017-18
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Degree Info

The Department of Biology is committed to excellence in instruction, scholarly accomplishment, research, professional service and student success. The Department provides a broad-based undergraduate education in Biology so as to give students the opportunity to pursue a career best-suited to their interests and abilities. Graduates are prepared to enter the workforce or continue their education in graduate or professional school. The Department provides rigorous pre-professional preparation for students seeking careers in biological sciences and health professions.

BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

CAREERS

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 3.5-4.0. If you are pursuing a healthcare profession, you will need a competitive GPA.
- Take MATH 1342 or 1343 in your first year.

- 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.

- 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.).

- 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.

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 Kuder Journey.
- 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 Kuder Journey!
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor. Afterwards, introduce yourself to the health professions faculty 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. Visit our website (www.utrgv.edu/biology) to see what types of research our faculty does. Get in touch with a faculty member and discuss 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 the health professions faculty advisor to discuss future goals. Come prepared with questions and discuss applying to health professions schools.

- 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.

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! Visit the Writing center or become the secretary for your organization.

- 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.

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.
- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Career Connection icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).

- 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!

- 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

- 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 the Career Center portal!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger- locate and attend one student workshop.

- Update your resume in Career Connection 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.

- 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!

- 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

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