BIOLOGY

Phillips 330
715-836-4166
Department Website (https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/departments-programs/biology/)

The Study of Life

Biologists study the diversity, function, and interconnection of living organisms on earth from the molecular and cellular level to that of the whole organism. It is a broad science with many subdisciplines that range from the theoretical to the applied and from the microbe to the biome. Biological knowledge and understanding is essential for the intelligent evaluation of a range of issues facing civilization whether they be emerging diseases; invasive species and loss of biodiversity; or advances in medical, biotechnological, and ecological research.

The mission and vision of the department is to foster an interdisciplinary community that promotes an enthusiasm for lifetime learning in the biological sciences through education, research and service. Our students will be curious, confident, connected, and competent. We provide students with basic concepts and skills as well as an enlightening and participatory learning environment via coursework and high impact practices so students may solve problems and confront issues of the future whether they be scientific, social, political, or ethical in context. We also provide an inclusive atmosphere and opportunities, to assist students in identifying career possibilities consistent with their interests and abilities in the life sciences.

Student Organizations

Biology Club is a student organization for those interested in Biology. We also have organizations that span from the Saltwater Reef team to pre-professional groups. Beta Beta Beta, Biology Honor society, is dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biological study and extending the boundaries of human knowledge through scientific research. Meetings provide opportunities to meet other biology majors/minors and professors, hear speakers on various biology related topics, learn about possible internships and research opportunities, and participate in fun activities such as trips to science museums, aquariums, and zoos.

Biology Department Honors Requirements

Eligibility:

(1) Upper class biology majors (60 credits or more) with resident, total, and Biology GPAs of 3.50 or higher.

(2) Transfer students with junior status who declare a biology major and enter with GPAs of 3.50 or higher.

Requirements:

- An invitation by a biology faculty/staff member to pursue Biology Departmental Honors. Students may apply without an invitation but must have a letter of support from a biology faculty/staff member.
- At least 3 credits earned over at least 2 semesters, in either BIOL 384, BIOL 395, BIOL 396, BIOL 399, or BIOL 499.
- Presentation of collaborative research at one of the following:
  - an on-campus event (CERCA, the Provost's Honors Symposium)
  - an off-campus conference (a regional, national or international professional conference)
  - publication of collaborative research results in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Submission and approval of an Honors thesis of their research, including the following steps:
  - During the thesis semester, students will register for 1 credit of BIOL 489 (Biology Honors Thesis - in development) or HNRS 490 (Honors Senior Thesis or Project).
  - Students are expected to make substantial intellectual contributions to the development, implementation, or scholarly interpretation of the project.
  - The thesis will be evaluated for acceptability by the research mentor and at least one additional faculty or staff member.

NOTE: Students must maintain a resident, total, and biology GPA of at least 3.50 for continued eligibility for Biology Department Honors.

Faculty

Winnifred Bryant, Chair

Robert Arndt
Julie Anderson
Bradley Carter
Christina Chan-Weiher
Robert Duerst
Derek Gingerich
Daniel Herman
Tali Lee
David Lonzarich
Jamie Lyman Gingerich
Nora Mitchell
Sasha Showsh
Jennifer Smith
Evan Weiher
Lauren Wentz
Nicolas Wheeler

Majors

- Comprehensive Major: Biology, Ecology and Environmental Biology Emphasis, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biology/biology-comprehensive-major-ecology-environmental-biology-ba-bs/)
- Comprehensive Major: Biology, Microbiology Emphasis, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biology/biology-comprehensive-major-microbiology-ba-bs/)
- Major: Biology, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biology/biology-major-ba-bs/)
- Comprehensive Major: Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (College of Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Major) (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary/biochemistry-molecular-biology-comprehensive-major-ba-bs/)
- Comprehensive Major: Neuroscience, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (College of Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Major) (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary/neuroscience-comprehensive-major-ba-bs/)
- Comprehensive Major: Science Teaching, Biology Emphasis - B.S. (College of Education and Human Sciences Secondary Education Program) (http://

catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary/science-teaching-comprehensive-major-biology-t-bs/)

Minors

- Minor: Biology, General, Liberal Arts (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biology/biology-minor-general/)