BIOLOGY

Bachelor of Science

CLARK UNIVERSITY

Introduction to the Major

Biology is the study of life at all levels: molecular, cellular, individual, ecological, and ecosystems. Our hands-on approach will help guide your path.

The major in biology is suitable for students who intend to go on to professional schools in the health sciences (such as medical, dental, or veterinary school) or graduate studies in the biological sciences and for those planning careers in biomedical research, biotechnology, education, environmental sciences, or conservation biology. See why biology is one of Clark's most popular majors as you experience life as never before.

Highlights

The study of biology is central to understanding the world around us. Our department offers undergraduate and graduate programs steeped in research that reflect the complexity and diversity of living organisms. Working closely with faculty, students explore everything from cell and molecular biology to ecology and evolution.

"Clark provided me with ample undergraduate research opportunities. By continuing on to my M.S., I can further my research and synthesize it into a thesis."

- Tayla Cormier '20, M.S. '21

What can I do with my major?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Biology graduates work in laboratory and pharmaceutical research, education, health professions, forensic science, law, government, environmental science, and more.

Other career paths include biotechnology, conservation biology, forestry, and many exciting fields.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Biology alumni pursue advanced study at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science, Tufts University, Texas A&M University, Yale School of Medicine, and more.

Foundational Courses

Two semesters of introductory biology

- BIOL 101 - Introductory Biology I
- BIOL 102 - Introductory Biology II

Two additional core courses

- BIOL 118 - Genetics
- BIOL 105 - Evolution

One additional course in Biological Diversity, examples include:

- BIOL 109 - Microbiology
- BIOL 110 - Introduction to Botanical Diversity
- BIOL 114 - Marine Biology
- BIOL 111 - Comparative and Human Anatomy
- BIOL 119 - Herpetology
- BIOL 180 - Introductory Mycology

Find out more at clarku.edu/programs/major/biology-bs/

YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE

Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose

Cultivate Your Communities

Engage Locally & Globally

Develop your Professional Identity

Year 1

Explore the Biology Major

Visit the Lasry Center for Bioscience and meet faculty and staff. Read about student experiences in biology on the Clark website.

Look ahead

Core requirements in calculus and statistics are best completed in the first year, especially if you are interested in developing more advanced quantitative skills in the future.

Reach out to faculty to discuss future opportunities such as in research. Begin to build a four-year plan.

Get connected

Meet your peers and faculty by attending biology department events, and join student clubs such as the Prehealth Society, Women in STEM, or Clark Sustainability Action.

Year 2

Dig in and define your interests

Delve deeper in the areas that most interest you. Students usually follow tracks in ecology and evolution, cell and molecular, or prehealth.

Explore biotechnology in your backyard

Worcester is home to a burgeoning biotechnology industry. Meet industry professionals through career-related and alumni events.

Start networking

Join a biology lab group and connect with fellow students. Attend seminars and meet with speakers. Create a LinkedIn profile. Attend a career fair to learn about organizations and potential internships.

Year 3

Plan for senior year and beyond

Move into advanced courses such as seminars and directed studies. Apply to the 4+1 Accelerated Master's Program and/or Honors, if interested.

Study abroad

Study biodiversity in Panama, public health and medicine in Europe, or find another program that fits your plan. Learn about options at the Office of Study Abroad and Away.

Explore research and internship opportunities

Ask your career adviser about awards including the Edwin A. Weiller Summer Science Fellowship, the ClarkCONNECT Summer Award, and the Plave Family Research Fellowship.

Meet with your career adviser to explore internship opportunities with employers such as University of Massachusetts Medical Center.

Year 4

Finish strong

At least four advanced courses are required to graduate with a bachelor's degree in biology. One or more of those must provide a capstone experience. Talk with faculty and your career adviser about your plans. Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references or write letters of recommendation.

Share what you've learned

Consider a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA) position for your favorite class. Become a student representative on a departmental or university-wide committee. Present your research at ClarkFEST.

Connect with alumni

Find and connect with alumni in your fields of interest and ask for an informational interview to learn about what they do and how they got there.