School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Biology (BA, BS)

The Biology Program at UT Dallas emphasizes the unifying molecular and cellular nature of organisms. At the center of the Biology undergraduate curriculum are the biochemical, genetic, and cell biology concepts and tools used to study the genes of prokaryotes and eukaryotes, to study the proteins and ribonucleic acids (RNA) encoded by these genes, and to study how the expression of these genes is regulated during the development and lifetimes of organisms. Molecular Biology represents a fusion of the four disciplines of biochemistry, biophysics, genetics, and cell biology. Modern biology requires a background in other disciplines such as chemistry, mathematics, physics, and computer sciences. Principles from these disciplines have to be merged to understand and apply new biotechnology and genetic engineering techniques. It is desirable for entering students to have a broad interest and background in the sciences.

Both BS and BA degrees are offered in Biology at UT Dallas; a BS degree is offered in Molecular Biology. The BS degrees are intended as preparation for scientific careers in biology or careers in the health professions. The BA degree is intended as liberal arts biology major with less emphasis on calculus and more free hours for coursework in other disciplines. Each degree in Biology offers a streamlined double major with Business Administration or Crime and Justice Studies. Five-year Fast Track BS / MS Biology and Molecular Biology degree programs are available.

The UTeach option may be added to the BA degree in Biology. UTeach Dallas Option degree plans are streamlined to allow students to complete both a rigorous Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree and all coursework for middle or high school teacher certification in four years. Teaching Option degrees require deep content knowledge combined with courses grounded in the latest research on math and science education. While most graduates go on to classroom teaching, UTeach alums are also prepared to enter graduate school and to work in discipline related industry.

Minors are offered in Biology, Biomolecular Structure, Microbiology, Molecular and Cell Biology, and Neurobiology.

Faculty

Professors: Lee A. Bulla, Santosh D'Mello, Rockford K. Draper, Juan E. González, Stephen D. Levene, Lawrence J. Reitzer, Stephen Spiro, Li Zhang, Michael Qiwei Zhang

Professors Emeritus: Hans Bremer, Donald M. Gray, Claud S. Rupert

Associate Professors: Gail A. M. Breen, John G. Burr, Jeff L. DeJong, Ernest M. Hannig, Dennis L. Miller

Assistant Professors: Heng Du, Jung-whan (Jay) Kim, Kelli Palmer, Duane D. Winkler, Zhenyu Xuan,
Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Biology

Degree Requirements (120 hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours

Communication (6 hours)

3 hours Communication (RHET 1302)

3 hours Communication Elective (BIOL 4337, BIOL 4390, BIOL 4391, BIOL 4398, BIOL 4399 or NATS 4310)²

Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)

6 semester credit hours Government (GOVT 2301 and GOVT 2302)

6 hours American History

3 hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective

Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)

3 hours Fine Arts (ARTS 1301)

3 hours Humanities (HUMA 1301)

Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)

6 hours Calculus (MATH 2413 and MATH 2414) - BA or BS³

or MATH 1325 Applied Calculus I and STAT 3332 Statistics for Life Sciences - BA only

Science (9 hours)

9 hours Chemistry (CHEM 1311 and CHEM 1111, CHEM 1312 and CHEM 1112, and CHEM 212)

II. Major Requirements: 53 - 61 hours (53-55 for BA; 61 for BS)
Major Preparatory Courses (15-17 hours beyond Core Curriculum)

**CHEM 1311** and **CHEM 1111**, **CHEM 1312** and **CHEM 1112** General Chemistry I and II with Laboratory

**CHEM 2323** and **CHEM 2123**, **CHEM 2325** and **CHEM 2125** Introductory Organic Chemistry I and II with Laboratory

**MATH 2413** Differential Calculus and **MATH 2414** Integral Calculus (BA or BS)

or **MATH 1325** Applied Calculus I and **STAT 3332** Statistics for Life Sciences (BA only)

**PHYS 2325** Mechanics and **PHYS 2125** Physics Laboratory I (BA or BS)

or **PHYS 1301** College Physics I and **PHYS 1101** Physics Laboratory I (BA only)

**PHYS 2326** Electromagnetism and Waves and **PHYS 2126** Physics Laboratory II (BA or BS)

**PHYS 1302** College Physics II and **PHYS 1102** Physics Laboratory II (BA only)

Major Core Courses (29 hours)

**BIOL 2281** Introductory Biology Laboratory

**BIOL 2111** Introduction to Modern Biology Workshop I

**BIOL 2112** Introduction to Modern Biology Workshop II

**BIOL 2311** Introduction to Modern Biology I

**BIOL 2312** Introduction to Modern Biology II

**BIOL 3101** Classical and Molecular Genetics Workshop

**BIOL 3102** Eukaryotic Molecular and Cell Biology Workshop

**BIOL 3161** Biochemistry Workshop I

**BIOL 3162** Biochemistry Workshop II

**BIOL 3301** Classical and Molecular Genetics

**BIOL 3302** Eukaryotic Molecular and Cell Biology

**BIOL 3361** Biochemistry I

**BIOL 3362** Biochemistry II

or **BIOL 3335** Microbial Physiology

**BIOL 3380** Biochemistry Laboratory

**BIOL 4380** Cell and Molecular Biology Laboratory (BS only)

Major Related Courses (9-12 hours)
9 hours upper-division BIOL electives (BA only)
12 hours upper-division BIOL electives (BS only)

III. Elective Requirements: 17-25 hours (23-25 for BA; 17 for BS)

Free Electives 17-25 hours (23-25 for BA; 17 for BS)

The plan must include sufficient upper-division credit to total 51 upper-division credit hours.

**Bachelor of Arts in Biology with UTeach Option**

**Degree Requirements (121 hours)**

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours

**Communication (6 hours)**

3 hours Communication ([RHET 1302](#))
3 hours Communication Elective ([NATS 4390](#))

**Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)**

6 semester credit hours Government ([GOVT 2301](#) and [GOVT 2302](#))
6 hours American History
3 hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective

**Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)**

3 hours Fine Arts ([ARTS 1301](#))
3 hours Humanities ([HUMA 1301](#))

**Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)**

6 hours Calculus ([MATH 2413](#) and [MATH 2414](#))
or [MATH 1325](#) Applied Calculus I and [STAT 3332](#) Statistics for Life Sciences

**Science (9 hours)**

9 hours Chemistry ([CHEM 1311](#) and [CHEM 1111](#), [CHEM 1312](#) and [CHEM 1112](#), and [CHEM 212](#))
II. Major Requirements: 53-55 hours

Major Preparatory Courses (15-17 hours beyond Core Curriculum)

**CHEM 1311** and **CHEM 1111**, **CHEM 1312** and **CHEM 1112** General Chemistry I and II with Laboratory

**CHEM 2323** and **CHEM 2123**, **CHEM 2325** and **CHEM 2125** Introductory Organic Chemistry I and II with Laboratory

**MATH 2413** Differential Calculus and **MATH 2414** Integral Calculus

or **MATH 1325** Applied Calculus I and **STAT 3332** Statistics for Life Sciences

**PHYS 1301** College Physics I and **PHYS 1101** Physics Laboratory I

**PHYS 1302** College Physics II and **PHYS 1102** Physics Laboratory II

Major Core Courses (29 hours)

**BIOL 2281** Introductory Biology Laboratory

**BIOL 2111** Introduction to Modern Biology Workshop I

**BIOL 2112** Introduction to Modern Biology Workshop II

**BIOL 2311** Introduction to Modern Biology I

**BIOL 2312** Introduction to Modern Biology II

**BIOL 3101** Classical and Molecular Genetics Workshop

**BIOL 3102** Eukaryotic Molecular and Cell Biology Workshop

**BIOL 3161** Biochemistry Workshop I

**BIOL 3162** Biochemistry Workshop II

**BIOL 3301** Classical and Molecular Genetics

**BIOL 3302** Eukaryotic Molecular and Cell Biology

**BIOL 3361** Biochemistry I

**BIOL 3362** Biochemistry II

or **BIOL 3335** Microbial Physiology

**BIOL 3380** Biochemistry Laboratory

Major Related Courses (9 hours)

9 hours upper-division BIOL electives
III. Elective Requirements: 24-26 hours

UTeach Requirements (24 hours)

**NATS 1141** UTeach STEP 1

**NATS 1143** UTeach STEP 2

**NATS 3341** Knowing and Learning in Mathematics and Science

**NATS 3343** Classroom Interactions

**HIST 3328** History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine

**NATS 4390** Research Methods

**NATS 4341** Project-Based Instruction

**NATS 4694** UTeach Apprentice Teaching, 8-12 Science and Mathematics

or **NATS 4696** UTeach Apprentice Teaching, 4-8 Science and Mathematics

**NATS 4141** UTeach Apprentice Teaching Seminar

Free Electives (0-2 hours)

The plan must include sufficient upper-division credit to total 51 upper-division credit hours.

**Minor in Biology**

Minor in Biology

Course Requirements: 18 hours

**BIOL 2311** and **BIOL 2111** Introduction to Modern Biology I with Workshop

**BIOL 3301** and **BIOL 3101** Classical and Molecular Genetics with Workshop

**BIOL 3361** and **BIOL 3161** Biochemistry I with Workshop

Two BIOL electives for majors

Minor in Biomolecular Structure

Course Requirements: 18 hours

**BIOL 3336** Protein and Nucleic Acid Structure

**BIOL 4461** Biophysical Chemistry, unless taken to fulfill the Molecular Biology major requirements

**BIOL 4261** Biomolecular Modeling
CHEM 2323 and CHEM 2325 Introductory Organic Chemistry I and II

One to two approved BIOL, CHEM, CS, EE, MATH, or PHYS electives

Minor in Molecular and Cell Biology

Course Requirements: 18 hours

CHEM 2323 and CHEM 2325 Introductory Organic Chemistry I and II

Four approved molecular and cell biology electives

Minor in Microbiology

Course Requirements: 18 hours

BIOL 3V20 General Microbiology with Lab

BIOL 3335 Microbial Physiology

BIOL 4350 Medical Microbiology

or BIOL 4316 Parasites and Symbionts

BIOL 4345 Immunobiology

CHEM 2323 Introductory Organic Chemistry I

One approved microbiology elective

Minor in Neurobiology

Course Requirements: 18 hours

BIOL 4370 Developmental Neurobiology

BIOL 3371 Biology of the Brain

or NSC 4352 Cellular Neuroscience

CHEM 2323 and CHEM 2325 Introductory Organic Chemistry I and II

NSC 4353 Neuroscience Laboratory Methods

NSC 4354 Integrative Neuroscience

Fast Track Baccalaureate/Master’s Degrees

UT Dallas undergraduate students with strong academic records, including at least 15 hours of upper-division Biology core courses, who intend to pursue graduate work in Biology at UT Dallas, may apply for the Fast Track which involves taking selected graduate courses as an upper-division student. After admission to the graduate program, 15 hours of graduate courses with an earned grade of B or better can be used toward completion of the BS and to satisfy requirements for those courses at the graduate level. Graduate courses must be approved by the graduate advisor. This
program provides an opportunity to obtain the BS degree in Biology after 120 hours of work and an MS degree in Molecular and Cell Biology after an additional 21 hours of graduate course and research work. Interested students should contact the Biology undergraduate advisor well in advance of the senior year to prepare a degree plan taking maximal advantage of this 5-year Fast Track program.

Degree Planning

Upper-division biology courses taken at other institutions may be included as part of the degree plan subject to the provisions of the section on Transfer Admissions.

Major-related courses may not include more than 9 hours (BS) or 6 hours (BA) of upper-division transfer credit and not more than 3 hours (Biology major) or 6 hours (Molecular Biology major) of individual instruction (e.g., BIOL 3V90, BIOL 3V91, BIOL 3V92, BIOL 3V95, BIOL 3V96, BIOL 4302, BIOL 4390, BIOL 4391, BIOL 4398, BIOL 4399, BIOL 4V98, or BIOL 4V99).

Students planning a career in a particular allied health profession should consult the school they expect to attend to apprise themselves of the course requirements for admission.

Admission standards for medical and dental schools are set by the individual professional school, whose specific requirements should be reviewed with the help of the UT Dallas Health Professions Advising Center (HPAC). Most professional schools prefer that admission applications be channeled through the HPAC.

1. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parentheses are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major requirements at UT Dallas.

2. Biology majors may choose BIOL 4337, BIOL 4390, BIOL 4391, BIOL 4398, BIOL 4399 or NATS 4310 or another approved Biology elective to fulfill the Core Curriculum Communication Elective.

3. Six hours of Calculus are counted under Mathematics Core, and 2 hours of Calculus are counted as Major Preparatory Courses.

4. A required Major course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

5. Indicates a prerequisite class to be completed before enrolling for upper-division classes.

6. Up to 3 hours of individual instruction may be used in fulfilling this requirement.

7. NATS 4390 fulfills Core Communication requirement and counts as an upper-division biology Elective.

8. Two hours of BIOL 3V20 may be used to satisfy the Cell and Molecular Biology Laboratory core requirement for Biology and Molecular Biology majors.

9. May be substituted with CHEM 2325 Introductory Chemistry II if used to satisfy the Biochemistry II core requirement for Biology and Molecular Biology majors.