



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Gain a broad background in the biological sciences.
- Obtain the technical and analytical skills used in modern biological research.
- Acquire an understanding of the role of science in society.
- Learn how to develop hypotheses and think critically.
- Prepare for a career in the biological sciences.

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.

CORE COURSES

You will begin with foundational courses in biology before choosing an area of focus (such as cell and molecular biology or ecology and evolution). In addition to 10 courses in biology, you will complete two courses in chemistry, two courses in mathematics, and two from another natural science, computer science, or mathematics.

- Delve into diverse subfields of biology
- Conduct research in LEED Gold-certified labs
- Explore experiential learning opportunities
- Be prepared for a variety of exciting paths
- Health-related careers are guided by our Prehealth Advising Program

"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



25%

of Clark students
major in STEM

BIOLOGY

Bachelor of Arts



DESIGN
YOUR
JOURNEY



**Explore
and navigate
Clark curriculum**



**Connect
and engage
with communities**



**Discover
and pursue
your passions**



**Develop
professional
skills**



**Reflect,
design
and plan**

YEAR

1

YEAR

2



□ **Explore the biology major**

Visit the Lasry Center for Bioscience and meet faculty and staff. Take introductory courses for a broad overview and the necessary background to excel in more advanced courses.



□ **Identify potential Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) courses**

Talk with your adviser to start identifying PLS courses that match your interests and goals.



□ **Learn about campus resources**

Read about student experiences in biology on the Clark website. Make ClarkYou your default homepage and explore student resources related to academics, campus life, and health and wellness.



□ **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.



□ **Reflect on what sparks your interest**

What classes did you enjoy most? Which areas of biology most interested you in the introductory series? What new interests do you have?



□ **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.



□ **Declare your major**

Identify faculty members who share your interests and consider asking one to become your adviser.



□ **Prepare for research**

It's not too early to get into research in a lab or in the field! Consider volunteering to help a grad student with their research.



□ **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.



□ **Build your skills**

Broaden your perspective and gain field experience by studying abroad or volunteering in Worcester through the Office of Community Engagement and Volunteering.



□ **Pre-flight check**

Make sure you are on track with your coursework. What new interests have you discovered? What career options are you now considering?

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.

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.

YEAR 3



Plan for senior year and beyond

Move into advanced courses such as seminars and directed studies. Apply to the accelerated degree program (ADP) and/or Honors, if interested.



Engage and strengthen your networks - on campus and off

Continue connecting with faculty for advice and future letters of recommendation. Attend a career fair to learn about opportunities and meet recruiters and alumni. Join ClarkCONNECT and reach out to alumni to learn about their career paths.



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.



Seek funding for your research

Ask your career adviser about awards including the Edwin A. Weiller Summer Science Fellowship, the ClarkCONNECT Summer Award, and the Plave Family Research Fellowship. Opportunity funding is a popular resource for STEM students.



Test-fly your career

Meet with your career adviser to explore internship opportunities with employers such as University of Massachusetts Medical Center. These experiences can lead to fellowships, support for graduate school admission, and future employment.

YEAR 4



Pull it all together with your capstone

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, which will challenge you and your peers to work cooperatively, think critically, and communicate effectively about complex issues in Biology.



Share what you have learned

Become a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA) for your favorite class. Mentor rising undergraduates just getting started in research. 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 on ClarkCONNECT and ask for an informational interview to learn about what they do and how they got there. Internships and research help to prepare you for graduate school or a career.



What's next

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.



Ask yourself the big questions

What have you learned that you value? What have you excelled at? What action steps do you need to take this year to finish strong? Keep evaluating your goals beyond your Clark journey and keep in touch!



AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR!

The biology major is designed to help you learn outside the classroom.

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. Many students take advantage of internship opportunities during the academic year or over the summer to connect what they're learning with their professional development.

CONNECT WITH US!

The Lasry Center for Bioscience

15 Maywood Street, Worcester, MA 01610

[clarku.edu/departments/biology/
undergraduate-programs/](http://clarku.edu/departments/biology/undergraduate-programs/) | 508-793-7173

Advising

The Biology faculty are here to help!

Whether you have questions about courses or careers, feel free to contact the Chair of Biology or any the Biology faculty.

CLARK
UNIVERSITY



Challenge Convention.
Change Our World.

950 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01610
508-793-7711

clarku.edu