VISIT

Interested in a campus visit? The Biology Advising Program offers prospective student appointments and tours, during which you can meet one-on-one with an academic advisor. Our staff is available to answer questions about curriculum and career options for students in biology. To plan your visit, please call (217) 333-6774. If you would like a tour of our facilities or permission to sit in on a class, please be sure to specifically ask for that when you call. Tour schedules depend on staff availability. Prospective student visits will not be scheduled during university holidays or on weekends. If you would like a general campus tour or need information on the admissions process, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Thanks for your interest in our program. We hope to see you in Urbana!

ADMISSION

Incoming freshmen should apply for admission to the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS) and choose Biology as the intended major. Freshmen in Biology will take an introductory course in Integrative Biology (IB) and an introductory course in Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB). Just prior to sophomore year, students will consult with an advisor and decide between Integrative Biology, Molecular and Cellular Biology, or the Biology Teacher Education Option for their final degree program.

DEGREE OPTIONS

MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY (MCB) is focused on the fundamental structures, functions, and mechanisms of living organisms. The MCB major provides a solid foundation in biochemistry, cell and developmental biology, microbiology, molecular genetics, and physiology. Our proven program prepares students for medical, dental, and graduate schools, and for a broad range of careers involving molecular and cellular biology. Our courses include recent scientific discoveries, many of which come from the work of our own faculty members, whom students have the opportunity to work with in both research lab and classroom settings. MCB majors also develop a strong foundation in math and physical sciences.

INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY (IB) is the study of how the different components of life interact, from molecules through global cycles. An IB major prepares students in genetics and evolution, anatomy and physiology of plants and animals, ecology and behavior and molecular biology. After completion of the core 100 and 200-level sequence in IB, students complete the required additional approved coursework by either taking a variety of courses or specializing in such areas as health professions, biotechnology, biodiversity and conservation and environmental sciences. A student works with an IB advisor to plan this additional approved coursework.

BIOLOGY TEACHER EDUCATION OPTION is a five-year program combining core coursework in IB and MCB along with courses required for a secondary education minor. Students must meet frequently with their biology advisor and the coordinator of secondary education programs to be sure all requirements are being met.

BIOCHEMISTRY, SPECIALIZED CURRICULUM is an advanced, interdisciplinary field that encompasses the biological and chemical sciences. The major’s focus is training for students with research-oriented goals, including Ph.D. and joint MD/Ph.D. programs, providing instruction in the physico-chemical principles of catalysis, biomolecular structure, molecular recognition, and gene expression. Undergraduates are introduced to current developments in biochemistry through research literature and strongly encouraged to undertake a substantial research effort. Freshmen interested in this program should apply for admission to the College of LAS and choose Biochemistry as their major. To plan a prospective student visit or tour in Biochemistry, call (217) 244-3149.