



Undergraduate Programs

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VISIT

Our Schools of Biology offer prospective student appointments and tours, during which you can meet one-on-one with an instructional program employee. During your visit, we will answer questions about our degree programs, curriculum, research and career options. To plan your visit, please call (217) 244-6239, preferably one week in advance of your visit, and identify yourself as a prospective freshman. If you would like to schedule a tour of our facilities or receive permission to sit in on a class, please be sure to specifically ask about that when you call. Tour schedules depend on staff availability. Prospective student visits will not be scheduled during university holidays or weekends. If you would like a general campus tour or need information on the admissions process, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Thank you for your interest in our program. We hope to see you in Urbana-Champaign!

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 or Molecular and Cellular Biology for their final degree program. Students interested in teaching Biology at the high school level have the option of adding a Teacher Education minor in Secondary School Teaching, resulting in a teaching licensure for the state of Illinois.

By studying biology at Illinois, you'll experience a prestigious, highly customizable education that will allow you to follow your dreams. We'll prepare you for a competitive job market by developing your technical, research, and analytical skills both inside and beyond the classroom.

DEGREE OPTIONS

MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY (MCB) is the study of living organisms through the understanding of basic molecular and cellular structure and function, as well as the metabolic, genetic, and physiological processes common to all organisms. Made up of the departments of Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology, Microbiology, and Molecular and Integrative Physiology, the MCB major offers courses that explore unique aspects differentiating living organisms; how cells are organized; how cells and organisms respond to each other and their environment; how cells communicate signals and regulate gene expression; and how these processes go awry during injury, infection, or genetic diseases. Our curriculum imparts not only basic principles of modern biology, but also the fundamental critical and analytical skills necessary for a successful career.

INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY (IB) is the study of how the different components of life interact, from molecules through global cycles. Our courses and curricula focus on problem-solving, collaborative learning, and communication skills across the content areas. 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.

MCB OR IB PLUS TEACHING LICENSURE

Students who enjoy explaining ideas, have an interest in contributing to the improvement of our schools or getting others excited about biology may consider this program, which provides certification to teach biology at the high school level. Students complete the courses required for the degree program in MCB or IB, in addition to the requirements for a Teacher Education Minor in Secondary School Teaching. Students who complete this program historically have had a 100% job placement rate upon graduation.