

Biological Sciences
from biomolecules to the biosphere





Welcome to the Department of Biological Sciences

We want to help you succeed.

www.bio.ucalgary.ca

The UofC and You

<i>Faculties:</i>	<i>Departments:</i>	<i>Undergraduate Programs:</i>
Science 	Biol. Sciences 	Biochemistry
Social Sciences	Physics & Astronomy	Biological Sciences
Kinesiology	Chemistry	Botany
Medicine	Geosciences	Cell, Molecular and Microbial Biology
Vet. Med.	Math & Stats	Ecology
Fine Arts.....etc	Computer. Sci.	Zoology

Undergraduate Degree Syllabus

- A very useful document describing the department and the various undergraduate degree programs
- A must read for all biosci students.
- Available at:
<http://www.bio.ucalgary.ca/undergrad/>

What is an Undergraduate Program ?

- The set of courses you will take to successfully complete your B.Sc. degree.
- You select a program based on your interests, aspirations, and abilities.
- Some courses are mandatory and some are selected by you.
- Course selection should be considered carefully to provide both focus and breadth to satisfy the needs of a B.Sc. graduate in your chosen area.

Breadth and Focus in your Program

BREADTH

All programs share a set of courses that provide all students a uniform and broad exposure to key areas in biology (the biocore), math and chemistry.

To enhance breadth, programs also require selection of additional courses from Science and Non-Science Faculties.

Biol 231, 233, 311, 313, 331, Bcem 393, calculus / algebra / general and organic chemistry PLUS... courses you select that may cover other aspects of science and non-science fields.

FOCUS

Each program has its own set of course requirements that forms the foundation of the specific field.

See the calendar for the courses required by each program, and talk with your advisors !

How do I Select a Program ?

- You are ALL initially in the Biological Sciences Program.
 - You may remain in this program if you desire, or choose to apply to another program that better satisfies your academic goals.
- Before applying to another program you must:
 - Complete the core Biology courses (Biol 231, 233, 311, 313, 331) with a C- or better, plus Chem 201/203 and intro maths.
 - Then, **before April**, apply to enter a program that you desire.
- Entry into the programs is limited and based on your GPA, so plan for alternative strategies.
 - you may apply in subsequent years if not successful

Why Select a Specific Program ?

	Potential Advantages	Potential Disadvantages
Bio Sci	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-most flexible in terms of course selection (custom design your own program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-fewer 'mandatory' courses means fewer courses you are guaranteed access to
Other specialty programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-structured to provide great depth in the field-guaranteed access to required courses in program-well suited for those considering graduate studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-less flexible in course selection (more mandatory courses leaving fewer options)

Getting advice when you need it

(how do I keep track of all this?)

- You will have a lot of questions as you navigate through your degree, but you are not alone in trying to answer them.
 - UofC 101 orientation
 - this session
 - when you need advice, ask

Who do I ask for Advice ?

- 1) Your Academic Advisor
 - a specific person assigned to help you manage your program
- 2) Undergraduate Program Advisors
 - expert advice on each of the Undergraduate Programs
- 3) Department Office
 - For administrative help
 - For answers or authority that other advisors can't offer
- 4) Undergraduate Program Office
 - Faculty level help with transferring credits from other institutions, keeping track of what you require to graduate, etc.

1) Academic Advisors

- A specific person in the department who will be available to help you when you need advice.
- You will be contacted by them in the next few weeks to meet one-on-one and discuss options available to you.
- After this, you may contact them when you wish advice about your academic program.

2) Undergraduate Program Advisors

- Each of the 6 Undergraduate Programs has an expert advisor who is familiar with details of the program.
- They can give you advice on questions about program regulations, course selection, etc. for that specific program.
- They may perform similar roles as your Academic Advisor when you want to talk about details/requirements of a particular program.
- Their contacts can be found on the BioSci home page via the 'undergraduate' tab.

3) BioSci Department Office

- Biological Sciences room 186
- When you have questions about registration in courses, require departmental consent to register, course availability and instructors, how to contact specific individuals, etc.
 - Ms. Jillicent Webb (Undergrad Program Coordinator)
 - Phone: 403-220-3140 email: biosci@ucalgary.ca
 - Mr. David Bininda (Undergrad Program / Web Admin)
 - Phone 403-220-8307
- For certain issues or authority your advisor may refer you to the Associate Head Undergraduate, Undergraduate Program Director. You may make an appointment to speak with the Associate Head through the department office (see above).
 - Dr. Douglas Syme

4) Undergraduate Program Office

- The 'UPO' is located on 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre
- Counselors can help you understand what requirements remain before you can graduate, what courses you may or may not count toward a specific degree or multiple degrees, how to obtain permission to take courses at other institutions, what credit you may receive for courses taken elsewhere, etc.
- They have access to all of your student records and so often can answer questions about your standing that your other advisors can not.

What goes on in your Department ?

- Members of the department include:
 - About 65 faculty members (professors and instructors)
 - About 30 support staff
- We:
 - Teach undergraduates and graduates
 - Conduct research and supervise graduate students
 - Administer the teaching and research programs of the Department and contribute to administration of the Faculty, University and its many missions

What goes on in your Department ?

- Dept. web page (<http://www.bio.ucalgary.ca/>)
 - How to contact faculty and staff
 - What our research interests are
 - Organization of the department
 - Information for undergraduates (advisors, course outlines, various forms, degree syllabus, funding opportunities, instructors of courses, useful links and contacts, etc)
 - Information for graduate students
 - Facilities available in the department
 - Events and seminars
- Many undergraduate labs are taught in the BioSci building.
- Our offices and research labs are located in the BioSci building.
- The Faculty of Science office is located on the 5th floor of the building.

Questions ?

- Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire that will be used to help assign an Academic Advisor to you.

Your thoughtful completion of this questionnaire is important to help us match you with a suitable advisor.

- This presentation is available on the biosci web site, undergraduate tab.