Biology

https://colsa.unh.edu/biological-sciences

Description

UNH's location and facilities provide unique opportunities for the study of biology due to its access to the seacoast, the Shoals Marine Laboratory (http://marine.unh.edu/SML), the lakes region of NH, and White Mountain National Forest. The Biology faculty strongly believe in a hands-on approach to teaching and active involvement of undergraduates in research. We have a wide range of faculty expertise, including freshwater, estuarine, ecology, physiology, neurobiology, and behavior. A Biology degree provides the background for a variety of professional positions in the public and private sectors, and provides an excellent foundation for students seeking to apply for graduate, medical, or veterinary school.

Programs

- Biology Major (B.S.) (http://catalog.unh.edu/undergraduate/life-sciences-agriculture/programs-study/biology/biology-major)

Courses

BIOL 400 - Professional Perspectives on Biology
Credits: 1
Where can a degree in biology take me? This course views the scope of biology and explores professional opportunities for biological science majors. Guest speakers from on- and off-campus present seminars and lead discussions on contemporary issues in biology. This course will help you learn the skills required to succeed in biology and develop strategies for college success. Today, the field is multidimensional, offering many career opportunities for the future. Required for all first semester biology majors. Cr/F.

BIOL 402 - Biology in Our Daily Lives
Credits: 4
Students will learn about the nature and practice of science as it relates to biology, and the ways in which our activities have a biological impact on the world around us. Throughout the course, the students will examine the biological messages with which we are constantly bombarded, and by linking background scientific principles to those messages, practice distinguishing science from pseudoscience.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery)

BIOL 408 - Plants and Civilization
Credits: 4
Global experience of human interactions with plants, and the ways in which plants have contributed to the development and the flourishing of human societies. Includes role of plants in providing sustenance, clothing and shelter, quest for spices, the historical consequences of plant explorations and exploitations, the power to heal or kill, plants in mythology and spiritual endeavors, plants that alter consciousness, plant diseases and human history, plants as energy for society, and the Green Revolution in global change and feeding the world in the future. Special fee.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course
Equivalent(s): PBIO 400

BIOL 409 - Green Life: Introducing the Botanical Sciences
Credits: 4
All human and other animal life on earth depends upon green life: i.e., the plant world. In its diverse forms, green life is the ultimate source of our food, and of the atmospheric breath of life: oxygen. This course explores the structure, function, growth, reproduction, and remarkable evolutionary diversity of plants in their natural and human-influenced environments. Special Fee. Lab.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course
Equivalent(s): BOT 412, PBIO 412

BIOL 410 - Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology
Credits: 3
Introduction to structure and function of cells, tissues and organs, physiological processes; genes and heredity. No Laboratory. All COLSA and pre-professional health students should take BIOL 411, (with lab).
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery)

BIOL 411 - Introductory Biology: Molecular and Cellular
Credits: 4
Introduction to structure and function of cells; tissues and organs; physiological processes; genes and heredity. Required for majors in the biological sciences. Special fee. Lab. Students not permitted to enroll in BIOL 411 and BIOL 412 in the same semester.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course; Inquiry (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): BIOL 405, BIOL 411H, BIOL 413

BIOL 411H - Honors/Principles of Biology I
Credits: 4
Introduction to structure and function of cells, tissues and organs, physiological processes and genes and heredity. Required for majors in the biological sciences. Special fee. Lab.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course; Inquiry (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): BIOL 411, BIOL 413

BIOL 412 - Introductory Biology: Evolution, Biodiversity and Ecology
Credits: 4
Evolution is the paradigm through which we understand Biology. This course will introduce students to evolutionary concepts that underlie the tremendous biodiversity present on Earth, and explore the ecological interactions that occur among individuals and species. Indoor and outdoor lab activities. Required for majors in the biological sciences. Students are not permitted to enroll in BIOL 411 and BIOL 412 in the same semester. Special Fee. Lab.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course; Inquiry (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): BIOL 412H, BIOL 414
BIOL 412H - Honors/Principles of Biology II
Credits: 4
Evolution is the paradigm through which we understand Biology. This course will introduce students to evolutionary concepts that underlie the tremendous biodiversity present on Earth, and explore the ecological interactions that occur among individuals and species, indoor and outdoor lab activities. Required for majors in the biological sciences. Students are not permitted to enroll in BIOL 411 and BIOL 412 in the same semester. Special Fee. Lab.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course; Inquiry (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): BIOL 412, BIOL 414

BIOL 413 - Principles of Biology I
Credits: 4
Lecture and Laboratory introduction to biological principles; cell structure, function, replication, energetics and transport mechanisms; physiological processes; Mendelian, molecular genetics and gene technology. Required for students majoring in the life sciences. Cannot be taken for credit after BIOL 411 or equivalent. Special fee. Lab.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course; Inquiry (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): BIOL 405, BIOL 411, BIOL 411H

BIOL 414 - Principles of Biology II
Credits: 4
Lecture and laboratory survey of the five kingdoms of life; physiology of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems; evolution; human impact on the biosphere. Required for students majoring in the life sciences. Cannot be taken for credit after BIOL 412 or equivalent. Special fee. Lab.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course; Inquiry (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): BIOL 406, BIOL 412, BIOL 412H

BIOL 416 - Watershed Watch - Research Experience
Credits: 2
This course builds upon the experiences gained while conducting the field and laboratory research from BIOL 415 (Watershed Watch Summer Institute). Students will be expected to integrate the conceptual and hands-on components learned in BIOL 415 into their own independent scientific research projects conducted under the mentoring of a faculty advisor from their college or university campus. Using a seminar format, students will receive additional lecture and reading materials (via distance-learning tools), compare their research progress (e.g., problems and accomplishments) with the progress of other students on other campuses, and integrate their findings into the larger studies of the Merrimack and Pasquotank River watersheds. Ultimately, students will present their results at the UNH Undergraduate Research Conference at the end of April. (IA grading). Prerequisite: BIOL 415 and instructor approval.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits.

BIOL 420 - Introduction to Forensic Sciences
Credits: 4
Explore the forensic sciences! How do you collect, preserve, and analyze evidence related to a crime scene investigation? Hear from the experts and apply scientific principles and techniques in laboratory exercises that follow a crime scene scenario. The goal of this class will be to provide students with an understanding of what criminalistics entails and to prepare them for additional, more in-depth classes in criminalistics or forensic science. Special fee.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course

BIOL 430 - Biology of the City
Credits: 4
This course explores biological systems, functions, and interaction of organisms in an urban environment. Using the campus as our laboratory, the course will progress from exploring the effects of urbanization on biodiversity, biological responses to urbanization, urban forestry, urban agriculture, and conclude with topics in sustainable urban development and conservation. Students in the course will develop an understanding of ecological concepts, problems, and solutions to improving ecological systems of urban areas.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Discovery Lab Course

BIOL 444A - Biotechnology and Society
Credits: 4
The history and science of biotechnology and genetic engineering of bacteria, plants, and animals including humans. Applications of DNA technology, cloning and genetic engineering to agriculture, biomedicine, industrial products, and environmental problems. Discussion of economic, social, environmental, legal, and ethical issues related to the applications of biotechnology and genetic engineering. No credit for students who have completed BSCI 422 (UNHM).
Attributes: Environment, TechSociety(Discovery); Inquiry (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): BIOL 404, BSCI 422

BIOL 444B - Current Controversial Issues in Biology
Credits: 4
An inquiry into current controversial issues in biology and their scientific and technical bases, but with an emphasis on exploring the various perspectives or beliefs related to each topic and their social and environmental implications.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery); Inquiry (Discovery)

BIOL 495 - Research Experience in Biological Sciences
Credits: 1-2
Hands-on research experience for high school students and UNH freshmen under the supervision of a Biological Sciences faculty member. This independent-study course introduces students to the research process and requires them to undertake a research project that involves laboratory and/or field work. Before a student can register for the course, he/she must meet with a Biological Sciences faculty member who will serve as mentor and supervisor, and the two of them must have a formal agreement on the specific research activities that the student must carry out. Prerequisite: permission. May be repeated up to a maximum of 4 credits.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits.

BIOL 510 - Mushrooms, Molds, and Mildews: Introduction to the Fungal Kingdom
Credits: 4
Fungi are a fascinating group of organisms that occupy nearly every habitat on the planet. We encounter fungi in everyday life from the dangerous to the delicious. This course is a fun, approachable introduction to the world of fungi. Students will learn about the role fungi play in human society, review basic concepts of fungal biology and discuss important issues of our time: how we use fungi to make medicines, how fungi feed us, how plant diseases and food spoilage affect food supply, and how fungi contribute to ecosystem functioning.
BIOL 520 - Our Changing Planet
Credits: 4
Ecosystem interrelations and factors critical to maintain sustainability will be addressed in this course. Environmental issues such as water usage, pollution, and treatment; air and soil quality; fossil fuels and alternative energy sources will be presented. Not for credit if credit earned for ENE 520.
Attributes: Environment, TechSociety (Disc)
Equivalent(s): CIE 520, ENCV 520, ENE 520

BIOL 528 - Applied Biostatistics I
Credits: 4
Knowledge of biostatistics is essential to understanding our observations of life on Earth and properly design and conduct scientific research. Students develop skills in organizing data and performing, presenting, and interpreting statistical analyses. Theoretical concepts are applied using statistical software(s) and prepared biological data. Topics include descriptive statistics, continuous and discrete probability distributions, inferential statistics, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing for a difference of means and proportions, linear regression, non-parametric hypothesis testing, and graphing.
Attributes: Quantitative Reasoning (Disc)
Mutual Exclusion: No credit for students who have taken ADM 430, ADMN 420, EREC 525, HHS 540, MATH 439, MATH 539, MATH 644, PSYC 402, PSYC 402H, SOC 402, SOC 402H, SOC 502, SOC 502H.

BIOL 541 - Ecology
Credits: 4
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Equivalent(s): BIOL 541W

BIOL 544 - Your Genes, Your Life
Credits: 4
How do mutations accumulate to cause cancer? How does genetic variation underlie evolution? This course examines technological advances to read your DNA sequence, your genome, and how the genome can be modified by gene-editing. Students deliberate ethics underlying gene therapy, improving immune therapy, and modifying human embryos. The course uses an inquiry approach to illuminate how knowing your genome predicts some aspects of your life, but other features depend on genome interaction with your environment.
Attributes: Environment, TechSociety (Disc); Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course
Equivalent(s): BIOL 404, BIOL 444A

BIOL 550 - Mushroom Madness
Credits: 3
An intensive 2-week summer field and lab course that emphasizes the identification of mushrooms and other macrofungi that occur in New England forests. The role of mycorrhizal fungi, decomposers, and pathogens in forest ecosystems will be examined. Recent changes in our understanding of the evolution and systematics of macrofungi will be explored. Collecting trips to the White Mountain National Forest, NH and Massachusetts state and town forests will be followed by lab identification sessions that utilize traditional methods (microscopy, spore prints, staining reactions) as well as modern molecular techniques (DNA barcoding, RFLP). Smart phone apps will be used for recording field notes and images, and for uploading observations to on-line repositories (iNaturalist and MushroomObserver). One overnight field trip will be scheduled. Prereq: Intro course in Biology, Plant Biology or permission.

BIOL 556 - Systematic Botany
Credits: 4
Scientific basis of plant taxonomy and the identification and classification of major plant families, native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. Field trips, plant collection. Prereq: BIOL 412 or BIOL 409. Lab. Special fee.
Equivalent(s): BOT 556, PBO 566

BIOL 600 - Field Experience
Credits: 1-4
A supervised experience providing the opportunity to apply academic experience in settings associated with future professional employment and/or related graduate opportunities. Must be approved by a faculty adviser selected by the student. Prereq: permission. Cr/F.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

BIOL 601 - Biology and Ecology of Plants
Credits: 4
Because plants can't move, they have evolved extraordinary adaptations that allow them to inhabit a wide variety of environments and respond to environmental changes. This course introduces students to these adaptations by focusing on how the relationship between plants and their environment has influenced their morphology, physiology, community structure, and distribution. Emphasis is on terrestrial plants. Labs will be field-based. Lab. Prereq: BIOL 412.
Equivalent(s): PBO 601

BIOL 633 - Data Analysis for Life Science
Credits: 4
Expand your statistical knowledge and resume by learning R. Use project-based learning to explore topics such as inequalities of life expectancy, heart disease and risk behaviors, biomagnification of ecotoxins, and impacts of ticks on wildlife populations while learning statistical skills and R. In this course students will learn to become proficient in R (data manipulation, graphing, hypothesis testing, importing and cleaning data) and learn to effectively communicate statistical results.

BIOL 675 - Medical Botany
Credits: 4
This course is an integrated study of the medical, psychoactive, and poisonous plants, their active constituents their physiological effects on people, their mode of action and their role in historical and current medical practice. Emphasis is placed on the impact that plants have on human health. Students will take an active role in class, and will develop their own knowledge of medicinal plants through guided discussions and in-class group activities. Prereq: BIOL 411, BIOL 412.

BIOL 695 - Biology Teaching Practices
Credits: 1-4
Students assist instructor in biology course labs. Responsibilities may include assisting instructors with field trips, lab set-up and clean-up, helping students during lab and field exercises, presenting material, and creating a project that enhances the curriculum. You may be expected to present material or create a project that enhances the curriculum. This course is by invitation only. Prereq: permission. May be repeated to 4 credits maximum.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits.
Equivalent(s): BSCI 695
Biology

BIOL 700 - Current and Controversial Issues in Biology
Credits: 4
This course explores current issues in the biological sciences that are controversial and have a significant impact on individuals and society. Issues related to human population growth, evolution, cloning, synthetic biology, genetically modified organisms, free will, etc. Biology capstone. Only open to Animal Science, Zoology, Neuroscience and Behavior, Biology, Marine & Freshwater Biology, and Sust Agriculture & Food Systems majors.

BIOL 701 - Plant Physiology
Credits: 4
Knowledge about principles of plant physiology is critical to understand how plants work and what happens when planting a seed and picking up a flower or a fruit. This course focuses on fundamentals of plant physiology and metabolism using lecture and laboratory investigations. Lecture topics include: plant-water relations, mineral nutrition, photosynthesis and respiration, plant metabolism, signaling and hormones, growth and development, and plant-environment interactions. Labs will be project-based and students will conduct experiments to explore basic plant processes. Prereq: SAFS 421 or BIOL 409 or BIOL 411 and BIOL 412, CHEM 411 or CHEM 403; or permission.
Equivalent(s): PBIO 701

BIOL 702 - Lab Techniques in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry
Credits: 4
The course provides a hands-on experience with instrumentation and experimental procedures for analysis of plant growth and metabolism. Experiments demonstrate the regulation of plant growth and development in response to environmental and chemical factors, analysis of cellular contents and processes, and use of modern instrumentation and analytical tools for physiological and biochemical studies. Experiments deal with plant-water relations, photosynthesis, plant hormones, enzyme kinetics, use of spectrophotometry and fluorometry, aseptic procedures, and liquid and thin-layer chromatography. Special lab fee. Prereq: BIOL 411, BIOL 412, BIOL 701/801 or permission of instructor.
Equivalent(s): GEN 702

BIOL 704 - Plant-Microbe Interactions
Credits: 3
Microbes and plants have developed intriguing strategies to encourage, resist or profit from their coexistence. The primary objective of the course is to provide students with a comprehensive overview of the various ways in which microbes interacts with plants, the outcomes of that interplay, and applications of these interactions and how these interactions impact ecosystem function. Prereq: BIOL 411 and BIOL 412, BMS 503 and BMS 504 or GEN 604.

BIOL 709 - Plant Stress Physiology
Credits: 3
Plants cannot move in order to avoid challenging environmental conditions. Hence, plants developed other mechanisms that allow them to cope with stress. This course focuses on the mechanisms deployed by plants to respond to stressful conditions, some responses being nothing short of chemical and biological warfare. Biotic and abiotic stresses covered include pathogens, herbivores, drought, salinity, temperature, UV radiation, and heavy metals. Agricultural and ecological implications are discussed.
Equivalent(s): PBIO 709

BIOL 711 - Experimental Design & Analysis
Credits: 4
Design and analysis of biological and ecological research experiments. "Real world" studies used to discuss the identification of hypotheses, appropriate experimental design, and the application of statistical analyses including ANOVA, ANCOVA, correlation and regression, cluster analysis, classification and ordination techniques. Theoretical statistical concepts tailored to consider students' own thesis and dissertation research, allowing statistical problems to be addressed at various stages of the research process. Common computer packages used for analyses include Excel, JMP, Systat and R.

BIOL 713 - Biochemistry of Photosynthesis
Credits: 4
Physiology and biochemistry of photosynthesis in higher plants and microorganisms: light reactions, electron transport, membrane structure and function, carbon assimilation pathways, energy conservation, and metabolic regulation. Agronomic and ecological aspects of photosynthesis are examined. Prereq: plant physiology or biochemistry (Not offered every year) Special fee.
Equivalent(s): BOT 713, PBIO 713

BIOL 720 - Plant-Animal Interactions
Credits: 4
Animals and plants engage in a range of interactions, from plant-pollinator and plant-ant mutualisms to plant-herbivore and carnivorous plant antagonisms. This course will explore the consequences of a variety of interactions on the evolution of traits in both animals and plants, considering implications for both conservation and agriculture. Weekly recitation. Prereq: BIOL 412.

BIOL 752 - New England Mushrooms: a Field and Lab Exploration
Credits: 4
This is a hands-on field, lab and lecture course in the identification, classification, life histories, and ecology of mushrooms and other macrofungi. Lectures focus on macrofungal ecology and systematics. Laboratory instruction emphasizes morphological, microscopic, and molecular identification techniques, plus the use of smart-phone field note recording and on-line resources. Several field trips are required in addition to the weekly laboratory. Previous experience with fungi is not required. Grades are based on a collection, a project, and presentations. Prereq: Intro course in Biology or Plant Biology, or permission.
Equivalent(s): BOT 752, PBIO 752

BIOL 795 - Independent Investigations
Credits: 1-4
Topics may include teaching or research practicum in a biological science, supervised by a faculty member. Prereq: 12 credits of biology or permission.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits.
Equivalent(s): BIOL 795W

BIOL 795W - Independent Investigations
Credits: 1-4
Topics may include teaching or research practicum in a biological science, supervised by a faculty member. Prereq: 12 credits of biology or permission.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits.
Equivalent(s): BIOL 795
BIOL 799 - Honors Senior Thesis
Credits: 2-8
Independent research requiring a written proposal, a thesis, and a final public presentation (e.g. the Undergraduate Research Conference). Intended for biology majors completing biology Honors-in-major requirements. Contact biology program coordinator prior to senior year to arrange supervision and obtain permission. Two consecutive semesters. (4 credit minimum total; 8 credits maximum).
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

Faculty

https://colsa.unh.edu/biological-sciences/people