Biology, Minor (Behrend)

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The minor in Biology gives students opportunities to combine a background in the biological sciences with other majors. The minor can provide valuable expertise in cross-disciplinary areas, such as mathematical biology, biochemistry, and biophysics; or a biological grounding in fields like psychology or ecology.

What is Biology?

Biology is the scientific study of life: the diversity and organization of organisms, from single-celled bacteria to multi-cellular plants and animals, including humans. These different levels of biological organization range from the molecules and cells that compose an organism, to the interacting organisms that make up an ecosystem. Hands-on experiences, from designing and conducting lab experiments to making field observations using different procedures and instruments play an important role in gaining biological knowledge. Biologists explore ways to cure neurological diseases, conserve coral populations in tropical oceans, discover more efficient ways to use plants for food and bio-energy, develop vaccines for infectious diseases, and investigate many other facets of Biology.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to add a second discipline to your science major, or a science discipline to your major outside of the sciences.
- You are preparing for a career in the health professions.
- You want to expand your employment options by adding science expertise to study of marketing, communications, political science, psychology, chemistry, engineering, or another similarly broad discipline.
- You want to know how to sort through conflicting information about healthy living or wise environmental choices.

Program Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Minor</td>
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Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 110</td>
<td>Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity</td>
<td>4</td>
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Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select two of the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 220W</td>
<td>Biology: Populations and Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 230W</td>
<td>Biology: Molecules and Cells</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 240W</td>
<td>Biology: Function and Development of Organisms</td>
<td>6</td>
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Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 credits of additional 400-level BIOBD courses, excluding the following:

- BIOL 492 Senior Seminar in Biology
- BIOL 495 Internship in Biology
- BIOL 496 Independent Studies
- BIOL 496 Independent Studies

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

Erie

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Career Paths

Biology is among the most versatile of college majors and a jumping-off point for careers that can range from astrobiologist to microbiologist to zoologist. Whether you envision a career working with cancer cells or California condors, education in biology can make that happen. Penn State Behrend has a comprehensive support system to help you identify and achieve your goals for college and beyond. Meet with your academic adviser often and take advantage of the services offered by the Academic and Career Planning Center beginning in your first semester.

Careers

The Biology minor is excellent additional preparation for careers in medicine, psychology, business, engineering, communications, sales, visual arts, and professional writing.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN BIOLOGY (http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-science/academic-programs-1/biology/curriculum/biology-minor)
Opportunities for Graduate Studies
A minor in the sciences, particularly when added to a major program outside of the sciences, demonstrates to graduate school admissions committees your commitment to interdisciplinary thinking.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-science/academic-programs-1/biology/curriculum/biology-minor)

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http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-science