

# BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES MAJOR

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## Overview

The science of biology spans an extraordinary range of subjects, from molecular biology through ecosystem ecology. Biology also underpins some of the most important challenges and opportunities in human society, such as understanding human health and disease, managing agriculture and developing technologies to feed the global population, and predicting responses of organisms to climatic changes and figuring out ways to protect biological diversity. A student seeking a biology major at Fordham is offered a diverse and rigorous program that encompasses the breadth of this field and provides them the tools they need to address these challenges.

The broad learning goals of our biological sciences program are to:

- Cultivate a life-long curiosity about science and all aspects of biology,
- Provide an understanding of the use of the scientific method in biological investigations, and gain practical experience and technical skills using these methods, and
- Give students a deeper understanding of basic concepts, principles, ideas and theories in biology, so that students become knowledgeable and literate in their field.

We help our students develop an academic program that best fits their interests and career goals. Through this, our graduates pursue diverse careers in fields like healthcare, education, research, and work with government agencies, non-profit organizations, or private-sector research laboratories.

All majors in our undergraduate program begin with Introductory Biology courses BISC 1403 + BISC 1414; and BISC 1404 + BISC 1414 and General Chemistry courses CHEM 1321 + CHEM 1331; and CHEM 1322 + CHEM 1322. From this foundation, Biology majors take more advanced courses, including General Genetics (BISC 2539 + BISC 2549) and Organic Chemistry (CHEM 2521 + CHEM 2541; and CHEM 2522 + CHEM 2542). These courses all include laboratory training and experience. Students may also participate in hands-on research projects working under the mentorship of biology research faculty in a research tutorial (BISC 4999) or senior research thesis (BISC 4792).

A grade of C- is the minimum accepted grade for all courses to count toward fulfilling requirements of the biology major (note: medical schools often require at least a C).

For questions about the program, students can contact the associate chair at [undergradbisc@fordham.edu](mailto:undergradbisc@fordham.edu).