

BIOLOGY, B.S. (BEHREND)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Program Description

The curriculum in Biology is designed to provide students with a strong background in the biological sciences. It provides preparation for students who intend to secure advanced degrees through graduate study, students who intend to prepare for careers in medicine or health-related fields, and students preparing for careers with companies or agencies requiring employees with biological backgrounds. The curriculum has six options allowing students to choose an area of specialization that will best meet their career goals. In addition to selecting an option, students are strongly encouraged to participate in faculty-supervised research. The options are:

1. *General Biology* - various areas of modern biology;
2. *Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior* - theoretical, practical, and applied ecology and evolution of plants and animals;
3. *Genetics and Developmental Biology* - genetics and developmental biology of plants and animals;
4. *Molecular and Cellular Biology and Biochemistry* - molecular and cellular mechanisms of biology;
5. *Medical Technology* - prepares students for careers in clinical laboratories; and
6. *Health Professions* - prepares students for careers in medicine and veterinary sciences; this option also allows exceptional students, who gain early admission to a professional school, to fulfill option requirements with a set number of academic credits taken during the first professional year.

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 are curious about the natural world, from the smallest of cells to the largest of trees.
- You enjoy theoretical study as well as hands-on laboratory learning.
- You are interested chemistry, physics, and mathematics.
- You can envision yourself in a health care or medical career.

- You are looking for a foundational major that supports diverse career paths in the sciences, engineering, research, education, and health care.