Explore more majors
Biology

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College of Biological Sciences
Degree Type(s)
B.S.
Link to major's website
Degree Requirements
Minor Available

As a student majoring in biology, you’ll gain a broad understanding of the fundamental nature and characteristics of living things and the ways in which they interact. The biology major covers the full range of life sciences, from cancer genes to acid rain and from lichens to marine mammals, so you’ll gain a range of knowledge during your undergraduate career.

With the U of M being one of the nation’s top public research universities, you will have many opportunities to work alongside faculty on basic research with implications for the environment, human health and more. The innovative curriculum creates a sense of community among CBS students and draws out critical thinking skills key to success in a wide variety of career fields.

The biology B.S. program will prepare you for further studies in a broad spectrum of biological sciences, professional training programs in the health sciences, careers in teaching, and entry-level scientist positions in industry, government agencies, and universities.

Eddie Mairura, a recent alumnus, has used his undergraduate experience at the College of Biological Sciences as a springboard to a health career.

Student Experiences
Student groups related to this major:

- Biology Without Borders
- Synthetic Biology Society
- Marine Biology Club

Study Abroad Options

An international experience will provide you with the necessary skills to work effectively in health care, academia, industry, or the public sector. Learn more about study abroad options as a Biology major.

Meet Our Alumni

Jessica Gergen

Everyone knows that travel can change one's perspective, but for Jessica Gergen (B.S. Biology), that has proved to be especially true. “As soon as I got my undergraduate degree, I traveled to Freetown, Sierra Leone, and helped to build public-health programs for a small, grassroots non-government organization to improve community engagement surrounding endemic infectious diseases,” she says.

The work led her to scuttle plans to attend medical school in favor of a career in public health. Currently, near completion of a master’s degree program in the international health department at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, she recently worked as a Global Health Fellow intern for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). She has also continued to travel, including the completion of a practicum project in Bangladesh. “I worked for the Center for Communication Programs, helping monitor and evaluate an electronic
health (eHealth) pilot for rural community health workers,” she says.

“My long-term goal is to change the funding platform of public health, so the relationship between donors, private businesses and non-profit organizations is one of collaboration instead of competitive duplication,” she says.

Gergen’s travels have certainly brought her a deeper world view. “One of the major benefits of traveling to resource-poor settings is that I’m more encouraged to have a perspective of gratitude,” she says. “I try to keep things in perspective. When I’m worried about an upcoming test or when I’m running late for a meeting, I try to keep that in mind.”

You might also explore

Biology, Society, and the Environment
Biomedical Engineering
Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development
Animal Science
Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering
Neuroscience
Plant and Microbial Biology

Associated Careers

Consultants, Educators, Entrepreneurs, Healthcare Professionals, Legal Professionals, Media and Communications Specialists, Program and Project
Managers, Researchers