Biology Department (BIO)

College of Science and Health
Department Chair: Michael Abler
3020 Cowley Hall; 608.785.6962
Email: mabler@uwlax.edu

Associate Chair: Margaret Maher
0024 Health Science Center; 608.785.6967
Email: mmaher@uwlax.edu

www.uwlax.edu/biology

Awarded the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award for the best UW System department in 2013, the Department of Biology supports undergraduate and graduate programs in biological sciences. Undergraduate students pursuing a major in biology complete foundation course work that includes courses in introductory biology, organismal biology, cell biology, genetics, and ecology. Because biologists must understand chemistry, biology majors complete at least three semesters of chemistry, including organic chemistry. Each student may plan his/her own electives and specialize in one of several subdisciplines within biology or specialize in field studies or laboratory studies. Some elective courses require off-campus trips to field stations in northern Wisconsin. Other courses make use of several unique ecological habitats close to campus. The Mississippi River and the La Crosse River Marsh are within blocks of the campus and are also used for outdoor laboratory studies. In addition, modern laboratory facilities and use of high tech research equipment prepare students for careers in the emerging fields of biotechnology.

Students develop a curriculum around specific career goals. Each student meets individually with their faculty adviser each semester. The diversity of the faculty in the department provides a wide array of both classroom and non-classroom opportunities for student learning.

Undergraduate research is an important part of the biology program and provides excellent opportunities for students to receive both individualized and unique learning experiences. Graduates of the programs in biology have traditionally been very competitive in the job markets and for entrance into graduate and other professional programs. In the last four years, 65% of biology majors have gone onto graduate or professional school, and 98% of the remaining students were employed within a year of graduation.

The Department of Biology has established a number of partnerships with local, state, and regional environmental and aquatic science research centers, biotechnology firms, and allied health care institutions. These partnerships provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to interact with practicing scientists in a wide variety of professions including medical sciences, river studies, aquatic toxicology, fisheries biology, watershed studies, food science, and seed genetics to name a few. These opportunities are in the form of internships, job shadowing, and undergraduate research, some of which are university funded. Many of these experiences result in summer jobs and part-time employment for students.

General education writing emphasis

This department incorporates a significant amount of writing through the required courses instead of identifying particular courses as writing emphasis courses. Students who complete a major in this department will fulfill the general education writing emphasis requirement (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation/#generaleducationrequirementstext).

2018-19 Faculty/Staff

The following is the department's faculty and staff as of the publication date of this catalog. This list will not be updated again until the next catalog is published in June.

Professor
Scott Cooper
Daniel Gerber
Rick Gillis
Roger Haro
Sumei Liu
Margaret Maher
Jennifer Miskowski
Mark Sandheinrich
Gregory Sandland
Eric Strauss
Meredith Thomsen
Thomas Volk

Associate Professor
Michael Abler
Anita Baines
Anne Galbraith
Gretchen Gerrish
Tisha King-Heiden
Barrett Klein
Jennifer Klein
Todd Osmundson
Anton Sanderfoot
Bradley Seebach
Eric Snively

Assistant Professor
Sierra Colavito
Megan Litster
Elizabeth Peitzman
Christine Schwartz
Biology Department (BIO)

Jaclyn Wisinski
Amy Yu
**Senior Lecturer**
Faye Ellis
Renee Redman
**Lecturer**
Lee Baines
Kristin Greany
Lisa Kobs
**Associate Lecturer**
Jason Freund
William Haviland
Markus Mika
Teresa Mika
Rebecca Werren
**Laboratory Manager I**
Franklin Greene
Kurt Grunwald
Elisabeth Paluch
**Administrative Support**
Mandy Wagner

**Majors**
- Biology major - BA (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/biology-ba)
- Biology major - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/biology-bs)
- Biology major: aquatic science concentration - BA (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/aquatic-science-ba)
- Biology major: aquatic science concentration - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/aquatic-science-bs)
- Biology major: biomedical science concentration - BA (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/biomedical-science-ba)
- Biology major: biomedical science concentration - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/biomedical-science-bs)
- Biology major: cellular and molecular biology concentration - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/cellular-and-molecular-bs)
- Biology major: environmental science concentration - BA (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/environmental-science-ba)
- Biology major: environmental science concentration - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/environmental-science-bs)
- Biology major: plant and fungal biology concentration - BA (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/plant-and-fungal-ba)
- Biology major: plant and fungal biology concentration - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/plant-and-fungal-bs)
- Biology education major (early adolescence-adolescence certification) - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/education)
- General science education (broad field) major (early adolescence-adolescence certification) - second major only (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/general-science-education)
- Dual degree program in biology and physical therapy (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/dual-degree-program-in-biology-physical-therapy)

**Minors**
- Biology minor (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/biologyminor)
- Biology education minor (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/biology/biologyeducationminor)