

Biology

at Coastal Carolina University

What does a biology major study?

Biology is the study of life in all its diverse forms: bacteria, fungi, algae, protozoa, plants and animals. The Department of Biology at Coastal Carolina University gives students opportunities to explore these various life forms at molecular, cellular, organismic and ecological levels. In addition to core curriculum requirements, a biology major includes 31-32 credits in upper division biology courses and related courses in chemistry and physics.

Why study biology at Coastal Carolina University?

- Students have access to professors with a broad range of expertise, from the molecular scale to the ecosystem. Faculty have varied research interests that include infectious diseases, circadian rhythms, cellular biology, plant population genetics, fishes, herpetology, sea bird conservation, and stream and wetland ecology.
- Classes take students into both the laboratory and the field, even as freshmen. Upper division courses include hands-on laboratories.
- Students have the opportunity to work with faculty on independent research projects. Recent topics have included the landscape ecology of golf courses, ecology of the Carolina bays, freshwater ecology, using DNA to determine bird parentage, fungus on beaches, and investigating prions.
- Many laboratories involve outdoor activities and field trips to sites such as Waties Island, wetlands, forests, swamps and Carolina Bays.
- Internships, employment and/or volunteer opportunities are available at locations such as Myrtle Beach State Park, Huntington Beach State Park, pharmacies, veterinary and medical practices, and Ripley's Aquarium.

What are some career options for biology majors?

- Environmental scientist for federal, state or local government agency
- Industrial biologist in environmental quality assessment/conservation
- Zoologist
- Pharmacologist
- Biostatistician
- Biomedical engineer
- Clinical researcher
- Botanist/Plant scientist
- Teacher
- Toxicology researcher
- Food and nutrition scientist

What kind of courses do biology majors take?

BIOL 330	Microbiology
BIOL 405	Immunology
BIOL 410	Developmental Biology
BIOL 417	Herpetology
BIOL 431	Parasitology
BIOL 436	Animal Behavior
BIOL 451	Molecular Techniques
BIOL 461	Ornithology
BIOL 488	Wetland Plant Ecology

Whom can I contact for more information?

- Sharon Gilman, Ph.D., chair of the department, 843-349-2248 or sgilman@coastal.edu
- Molly French, administrative assistant, 843-349-2238 or mfrench@coastal.edu
- You can also obtain more information at www.coastal.edu/science.

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