

Biology Majors

Advising Packet



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Biological Sciences



Welcome to the Department of Biological Sciences at Boise State University. We've created this packet to offer you some support and ideas for success in the biology major. This does not replace the many advising conversations we hope to have with you over the next four years! Please reach out to us any time you have a question or concern. We are happy to help! – **Your Advising Team**

We offer a comprehensive undergraduate and graduate education that spans the breadth of contemporary biological sciences and prepares students for real world careers. We have award-winning professors who combine their enthusiasm for classroom teaching with cutting-edge research.

The department is a vibrant place with more than 700 students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in biology. Even with this large number, faculty, and students work in close collaboration.

Undergraduate students pursue a broad-based and highly flexible biology curriculum and choose from one of four emphasis areas: General Biology Emphasis; Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Emphasis; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Emphasis; or Secondary Education Emphasis. Every emphasis area is designed to allow students to tailor their degree to their specific interests and career goals.

We offer a Master's Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Raptor Biology. In addition, we offer two doctoral programs: Biomolecular Sciences PhD; and Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior PhD.

Biology Advising Team

College of Arts & Sciences (COAS) Advising Office

Freshmen & Sophomores – You'll find your advisor in the [Center for Advising and Student Success](#). The COAS Advising Team provides advising for your first two years, as well as offering a world of information about starting successfully at Boise State. [Freshmen and Sophomore students with less than 58 credits](#).

Office Location: RFH 306

Riverfront Hall, [1987 Cesar Chavez Lane](#), Boise, Idaho 83725

Book an appointment online at: [Schedule with an Advisor](#)

Alex Urquhart

Juniors & Seniors – Make an appointment with, **Alex Urquhart** if you have questions about your next semester schedule or would like to explore the biology major and the courses we offer. Alex is a biology course instructor with years of experience in our department. [Students with more than 57 credits](#).

Office Location: SCNC 139

Science/Education, [2133 W Cesar Chavez Ln](#), Boise, Idaho 83725

[Make an appointment online](#)

Clay Cox

Junior, Senior, and Transfer Students – Make an appointment with **Clay Cox** in the Department of Biological Sciences. Clay can help you with scheduling, answer questions about transfer credits or academic adjustments, and address any issues that may keep you from being successful. [All transfer students, and any students with more than 57 credits. Biology minors, and second degree seeking students](#).

Seniors must meet with Clay for a **Senior Graduation Check** prior to their last semester!

Office Location: SCNC 107A

Science/Education, [2133 W Cesar Chavez Ln](#), Boise, Idaho 83725

[Make an appointment online](#)

Email Advising Questions

Email Advising Questions: Feel free to send us an email if you have a short question or two. [Always include your student ID number with every email](#). Email questions to: bioladvisor@boisestate.edu.

Advising Basics

Degree Progress & Course Scheduling

Accurately track your progress using the [Academic Requirements Report](#). Your advisor can always help – but it is best if you are able to monitor your own progress. Thinking about adding a certificate, minor, or different emphasis area or trying out a new major? Run a What-If Report – available from the same menu as your Academic Requirements Report. This allows you to explore your options without actually changing your major.

Department advisors (Alex & Clay) will provide you with an updated advising checklist each time you attend an advising appointment. You can make a copy and work with the same document. Always check your progress with your Academic Requirements Report, but your advising checklist provides a quick view and information specific to biology majors.

Our [department website](#) includes loads of interesting information plus a section devoted to [undergraduate advising information](#).

Required Advising Holds

First time students (new and transfer) are required to meet with an advisor before they can register for their second semester classes. Book an appointment with your [assigned advisor](#) as soon as you see the Required Advising Hold appear on your student center. This will be your only required advising appointment, but we recommend seeing your advisor every semester.

Enrollment Appointment

Your Registration Date is also referred to as “Enrollment Appointment” is on your student center. This is not an “in-person” appointment; rather it is the date and time you can begin registering for the next semester. We encourage you to register as close to your assigned Enrollment Appointment as possible.

Permission Numbers

Occasionally you may need a permission number in order to register for a class. Permissions numbers for BIOL, BOT, ZOOL, and VIP course can be requested [here](#). For all other courses you will need to contact the department offering the class.

Regular Advising

We recommend meeting with an academic advisor regularly. Advising provides you with essential information along with important strategies for academic, personal, and professional success. Visit the [Biology Advising Page](#).

- Discuss your career goals and plans.
- Review classes, prerequisites, and schedules, keeping in mind possible curriculum changes that may not be listed in the catalog.
- Learn helpful academic success strategies. Advisors act as your advocate for closed classes and other registration issues.
- Customize your degree requirements to supplement your future educational/professional goals.
- Ensure that required classes are completed in a timely manner and that you are on schedule for graduation.
- Obtain information about campus resources and understanding university policies.
- Get to know your advisor and let them get to know you, so they can provide a reference if needed later for applications for employment or graduate and professional schools.

Getting the Most from your Biology Degree

Academic & Personal Success

At Boise State, we understand your success in college is impacted by more than just completing assignments and taking tests. The **Student Outreach and Assistance** team provides case management and connection to campus and community resources, tailored to promote your wellbeing and academic success. <https://www.boisestate.edu/studentoutreach/>

**Student
Outreach and
Assistance**

Take a look at the services provided by **Advising and Academic Support Center**. To see a full description of their services, visit <https://www.boisestate.edu/aasc/>. Perhaps the most relevant topic for new biology majors is the Academic Support Resources where you can find information about tutoring, workshops, and study skills development.

Learning Assistant Program for many courses including Math, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics:
<https://www.boisestate.edu/aasc/academicsupportservices/boise-state-learning-assistant-program/>

Please talk to us if you are having any other issues that are impacting your ability to succeed. I can help you locate resources, make plans, and develop strategies to keep you successful!

Student Equity Center

Broncos come from all walks of life, and Student Equity is here to help make sure every Bronco feels welcome, supported, and celebrated. Learn how we can connect you with the rich diversity that makes up the Boise State community.

Student Equity Center
<https://www.boisestate.edu/student-equity/>

Career Advising

We are happy to help you explore the multitude of career opportunities available to biology majors. The best advice we can give you – start your career planning now! Make use of the services at the Career Center - <https://www.boisestate.edu/career/>. They can help you in every step of the career path, starting with major exploration, planning your career, and the job search!

Get Involved

Getting involved may mean more than you think because the answer is as unique as you are. Boise State offers many opportunities for involvement through a wide range of events and activities, clubs and organizations, and other programs. Use this site to find out more about the opportunities the Student Involvement and Leadership Center offers. <https://www.boisestate.edu/getinvolved/>



Biology Club

Join the Biology Club and learn about these opportunities: educational outreach, volunteer work, recreational activities, professional development, and just have fun!

<https://engage.boisestate.edu/organization/biology-club>

Getting the Most from your Biology Degree

Undergraduate Opportunities

We keep a webpage updated with numerous opportunities for biology majors and alumni. Bookmark this site and check often. We post daily during recruiting times! This is where you'll find job & internship opportunities critical to starting you career.

Environmental Studies Field Schools

One of the best ways for biology majors interested in environmental issues and careers is through an immersive learning experience—either in the summer or a semester. Examine endangered species policy while backpacking in Montana; Learn applied biology while snorkeling in Belize; Acquire field mapping or hydrology skills in Mackay or outdoor education techniques in McCall. There are lots of opportunities, all over the world. Talk to your mentors and advisors about which of these experiences align with your degree goals and career aspirations. And then get out there and get acquainted with the fields available to you.

Internships

Each year hundreds of Boise State students participate in internships with local, regional, and national organizations. You can even travel abroad. You may have an internship experience with a large international company, a small start-up, a state or federal agency, or a nonprofit organization. Internships can vary; they can be paid or unpaid, for credit or not-for-credit, part-time or full-time. In recent years our biology students have worked with more than 70 community partners to complete a variety of internships. We highly encourage our biology students to find an internship experience. You may add up to four internship or independent study credits to your degree requirements.

Undergraduate Research

Explore the biology department webpage to see the variety of faculty research, research centers, special collections, and other opportunities for undergraduate students to get involved in research. We have undergraduate students working in every research lab in our department! Those students play an important role in our research effort as well as learning valuable field and laboratory techniques.

Vertically Integrated Projects

Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) are project-based learning opportunities for students to work alongside faculty as they pursue ambitious research, industry, and community endeavors. Multi-semester participation is encouraged, and students can enroll in 1-2 credits at the 200, 400, and 500 levels. Build skills, networks, mentorships and new horizons!

Institute for Inclusive & Transformative Scholarship

The Institute for STEM and Diversity Initiatives aims to build a diverse community of students, faculty, and others involved and invested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The primary goal of the Institute is to promote a culture of active inclusive excellence in STEM at Boise State University. The Institute fosters diversity in STEM through (a) advocating for and nurturing underrepresented student and faculty success inside and beyond the classroom, (b) strengthening avenues of communication and collaboration among University and external partners, and (c) conducting and catalyzing STEM educational research.

Data Analysis & Data Science

Boise State offers a variety of Certificates and Minors in Data Analysis and Data Science. Why do we recommend gaining skills in data analysis? Studying biology requires analyzing data *and* every career in biology requires data experience. Biology Majors can add a certificate in Data Analytics for as little as seven additional credits or a minor in Applied Data Analysis for as little as ten additional credits. Review the options with your advisor for more information!