

As a biology major, you will gain a broad understanding of the characteristics of living things and the way they interact. Faculty cover the spectrum of life sciences, from molecules to ecosystems, and from human biology to ecology, animal behavior, and crop plant biology. Few colleges can match this diversity. A biology degree will prepare you for a career in health sciences, biotechnology, research, teaching, conservation, or public policy.

## Your future in the biological sciences

There couldn't be a better time to major in the biological sciences. Advances in genomics and related applications in biotechnology are dramatically increasing demand for biological scientists in the work force. According to the 2002 edition of *Jobs Rated Almanac*, biological scientists top a list of 250 occupations ranked by earnings potential and job prospects. The report is based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, the census, professional organizations, and surveys.

Many students who earn bachelors degrees in the biological sciences go on to graduate school to pursue research and academic careers, or to a health science professional school. An increasing number, however, are employed by the biotechnology industry.

The CBS Career Center provides students with information about career planning.

## Curriculum

Biology majors have lots of flexibility to choose from a variety of classes. Students must take 11 upper division elective credits, choosing courses from the biological sciences, mathematics, physical science, or computer science, and two lab or field courses from an approved list available in CBS Student Services. Students who are undecided about their area of interest within biology often begin in the biology major and later change to a more specialized major.

All CBS students are required to take a year each of calculus, general chemistry, and physics along with coursework in general biology and organic chemistry. Students also take courses in organismal biology, cell biology, ecology, and evolution. There are lots of choices that satisfy these requirements, so students may select courses that relate to their interests.

The curriculum is designed to integrate a strong basic research program with traditional and innovative classroom teaching and mentoring.



## Meet Ben Miller, biology major

Ben Miller, from Ham Lake, Minnesota, has been interested in biology for as long as he can remember. His interest has grown along with the dramatic growth of biology.

"There have been so many discoveries in the past few years and there are so many more to come. Being part of leading research is an unbelievable opportunity."

CBS' reputation as a leader in research and technology attracted Ben to the University of Minnesota.

"You couldn't find a better biology program anywhere in the Midwest and there aren't many in the nation that could surpass it," he says.

Ben works in a Cancer Center lab and has done research on circadian rhythms in caddis flies. He plans to go to medical school, but wants to study tropical biology in Hawaii, the Caribbean, or Brazil first.

Outside of class, Ben sings with the University Men's chorus and participates in intramural athletics. He also volunteers for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Special Olympics of Minnesota, the American Cancer Society, and the Children's Miracle Network.

## Research opportunities

As part of a large public research university, the College of Biological Sciences offers a wealth of opportunities for hands-on research experience. This gives the college a distinct advantage over small private colleges. There are more than 1,200 life sciences faculty on the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses, and



as many kinds of research to experience. Most CBS students complete a directed research project guided by a faculty member. Projects are done for credits that apply toward the major. Students may also volunteer to assist with faculty research projects or gain experience by working as paid lab technicians.

## Administration

The biology major is administered by the College of Biological Sciences. Director of undergraduate studies is the associate dean for academic and faculty affairs.

## The CBS advantage

Here are some of the advantages offered by the College of Biological Sciences:

- The University of Minnesota is ranked among the top three public research universities in the U.S.
- Molecular and Cellular Biology is one of the University's five priority areas.
- Many classrooms and instructional laboratories for undergraduates are located in the new \$80 million Molecular and Cellular Biology Building.
- CBS is a gateway to the Academic Health Center, which trains health professionals in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, public health, and nursing.
- CBS operates two outstanding sites for field biology: Cedar Creek Natural History Area and Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station.
- Although CBS offers the advantages of access to a large public university, with 1,300 students it retains a small-college atmosphere.
- CBS offers a number of special programs to help students make a successful transition to college life and to meet other students.

## For more information

If you are interested in visiting CBS, call the University of Minnesota Visit Office at 612-625-0000 or 1-800-752-1000

For more information about admissions, including an application, contact the Office of Admissions at <http://admissions.tc.umn.edu> or 612-625-2008; toll-free 800-752-1000; TTY 612-625-9051.

Twin Cities campus information is available on the Web at [www.umn.edu/tc](http://www.umn.edu/tc). The Undergraduate Catalog is available at [www.umn.edu/commpub](http://www.umn.edu/commpub). To request a copy of the Undergraduate Catalog, call University Bookstores, 800-442-8636.

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This publication is available in alternate formats upon request. Call 612-624-9717.



# Biology