

# ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, & BEHAVIOR

If you are curious about how all of the elements of our environment interact and you have an interest in conservation, you may want to consider a degree in ecology, evolution, and behavior (EEB). Ecology examines growth and maintenance of populations in ecosystems. Evolution investigates the origin and change of biological diversity by examining mechanisms and patterns. And animal behavior focuses on how animals react to their environment and form social systems.



## 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

Ecology students take many organismal biology classes from a wide range of topics, including mammology, ornithology, ichthyology, entomology, plant biology, and microbiology. Upper division coursework includes a four-credit field experience typically satisfied through courses at the Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station. EEB majors are required to take a course in statistics in addition to calculus I and II.

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, 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 Karen Egerman, ecology major

Born and raised in Cold Spring, Minnesota, Karen Egerman chose the University of Minnesota because it was affordable. But it turned out to be a good choice for many other reasons, she says. She didn't know at the time that the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior had such a strong national reputation. And she was pleased to discover that faculty are very supportive of students.

Karen did a directed research project on the viability of goldenrod in a fragmented prairie. "It's difficult for plants to be pollinated as distance between areas of undisturbed prairie increase," she says. She also did a summer internship at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, participating in a research project on biodiversity in Colorado. Her job was to collect and identify spiders. She also led spider biology workshops for museum patrons.

Graduate school is definitely in Karen's future. After taking a year off, she plans to go to a university in another part of the country to broaden her experience in order to prepare for a career in ecology research.

Karen, a 2002 graduate, was a member of the University of Minnesota women's varsity swim team.

## 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 ecology major is administered by the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. For more information about the department, visit <http://biosci.cbs.umn.edu/eeb/>

## 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 the University's five designated priorities.
- Many classrooms and instructional labs 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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