Botany

Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Botany

Minor in Botany

Master of Science degree in Biology [see Biology]

Department Chair
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The Program

Students completing this program will have demonstrated the ability to:

- apply the scientific method to questions in biology by formulating testable hypotheses, gathering data that address these hypotheses, and analyzing those data to assess the degree to which their scientific work supports their hypotheses
- present scientific hypotheses and data both orally and in writing in the format that are used by practicing scientists
- access the primary literature, identify relevant works for a particular topic, and evaluate the scientific content of these works
- apply fundamental mathematical tools [statistics, calculus] and physical principles [physics, chemistry] to the analysis of relevant biological situations
- identify the major groups of organisms and be able to classify them within a phylogenetic framework. Students will be able to compare and contrast the characteristics of organisms that differentiate the various domains and kingdoms from one another
- use the evidence of comparative biology to explain how the theory of evolution offers the only scientific explanation for the unity and diversity of life on earth. They will be able to use specific examples to explicate how descent with modification has shaped organismal morphology, physiology, life history, and behavior
- explain how organisms function at the level of the gene, genome, cell, tissue, organ and organ-system. Drawing upon this knowledge, they will be able to give specific examples of the physiological adaptations, development, reproduction and behavior of different forms of life
- explicate the ecological interconnectedness of life on earth by tracing energy and nutrient flows through the environment. They will be able to relate the physical features of the environment to the structure of populations, communities, and ecosystems
- demonstrate proficiency in the experimental techniques and methods of analysis appropriate for their area of specialization within biology.

Humboldt State University has the largest greenhouse of all the state campuses, containing an extensive collection of plants from around the world. Students also find a large collection of pressed plants in the herbarium.

Several plant growth chambers allow students to control growing conditions of plants. Native plants in nearby wilderness areas also provide excellent opportunity for study.

Our botany graduates do well in these careers: herbarium curator; naturalist, plant physiologist, technical writer; plant ecologist, environmental consultant, botanist, horticulturist, science librarian, plant pathologist.

Preparation

In high school take biology, chemistry, and physics (with labs, if possible), algebra (beginning, intermediate), geometry, and trigonometry.

REQUIREMENTS

Students who receive a grade below a C- in any prerequisite course will require instructor approval for enrollment.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 67-82., and “The Master’s Degree” pp. 83-84.

Lower Division (34-37 units)

BIOL 105  (4) Principles of Biology
BOT 105  (4) General Botany
CHEM 109 (5) General Chemistry I
CHEM 110 (5) General Chemistry II
CHEM 228 (4) Brief Organic Chemistry
MATH 105 (3) Calculus for the Biological Sciences & Natural Resources*

PHYX 106 (4) College Physics: Mechanics & Heat

PHYX 107 (4) College Physics: Electromagnetism & Modern Physics, or
PHYX 118 (1) College Physics: Biological Applications

STAT 109 (4) Introductory Biostatistics
ZOO 110 (4) Introductory Zoology

Upper Division (38-42 units)

BIOL 307 (4) Evolution
BIOL 330 (4) Principles of Ecology
BIOL 340 (3) Genetics, and
BIOL 340L (1) Genetics Lab
BOT 310 (4) General Plant Physiology

Botanical Diversity

Take three of the five [a-e] options:

a) BOT 350 (4) Plant Taxonomy
b) BOT 354 (4) Agrostology
c) BOT 355 (4) Lichens & Bryophytes
d) BOT 356 (4) Phycology
e) BOT 358 (2) Biology of the Microfungi and BOT 359 (2) Biology of Ascomycetes & Basidiomycetes, or

BOT 360 (2) Biology of the Fleshy Fungi and BOT 360L (2) Biology of the Fleshy Fungi Lab, or

BOT 394 (3) Forest Pathology

Plant Structure/Development/Evolution

Take one course.

BOT 322 (4) Developmental Plant Anatomy

BOT 372 (4) Evolutionary Morphology of Plants

BOT 521 (3) Paleobotany

Life Science Electives

Take one of the following or an upper division zoology (ZOO), fisheries (FISH) or wildlife (WLDF) course with a lab for 3-5 units. The course must be approved by your academic advisor:

BOT 330 (2) Plant Ecology, and
BOT 330L (1) Plant Ecology Lab

BOT 553 (3) Marine Macrophyte Ecology

BIOL 350 (3) Cell Biology

BIOL 412 (4) General Microbiology

BIOL 418 (3) Marine Microbiology

BIOL 433 (3) Microbial Ecology, and

BIOL 433D (1) Microbial Ecology Discussion

* MATH 109 may substitute for MATH 105.
BIOL 434  (4) Population & Community Ecology
BIOL 448  (3) Biogeography
BIOL 564  (4) Transmission & Scanning Electron Microscopy
OCN 109  (3) General Oceanography and
OCN 109L (1) General Oceanography Lab
SOIL 260 (3) Introduction to Soil Science

Research Requirement
Take one unit from:
BIOL 490  (1-2) Senior Thesis, or
BIOL 499  (1-2) Directed Study

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR
BIOL 105  (4) Principles of Biology
BOT 105  (4) General Botany

Plus 14 units of upper division courses in botany, approved by the botany minor advisor