Biological Sciences

369A Shelby Center
Telephone: 256.824.6260
Email: biology@uah.edu

The Biological Sciences department offers the following undergraduate degrees:


Program Objectives
The UAH Department of Biological Sciences aspires to provide one of the best programs in the southeastern U.S. for both undergraduate and graduate students in terms of both quality and efficacy. Our goal is to provide forward-looking, comprehensive curricula that includes both instruction and laboratory experience for our undergraduates and meets the highest national standards.

Learning Outcomes
Biological Sciences graduates will demonstrate the ability to

- Correctly use and apply key words, concepts, and theories from the biological sciences
- Write in a scholarly manner
- Engage in effective oral presentation of scientific topics or research results

Majors in Biological Sciences


For more information about the department of biology, visit uah.edu/biology.

Minor in Biological Sciences

BYS 202 - STATISTICS MICROBIOLOGY  
Semester Hours: 4

BYS 100 - INTRO HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
Semester Hour: 1

Career options for undergraduate students interested in health professions. Basics of health-care delivery systems and terminology of health care. No BYS major or minor credit. Primarily for freshman and sophomores.

BYS 103 - PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY/CALHOUN  
Semester Hours: 4

BYS 111 - ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I/OAKWOOD  
Semester Hours: 3

BYS 112 - ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II/OAKWOOD  
Semester Hours: 4

BYS 112A - HUMAN ANATOMY-PHYS II/OAKWOOD  
Semester Hours: 3

BYS 112L - ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II/OAKWOO  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 119 - PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY  
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab/Recitation. Introduction to biological principles of cell structure, function, metabolism and reproduction. One two hour lab and a one hour recitation per week.

BYS 119L - LABORATORY  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 119R - BYS 119 RECITATION  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 120 - ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY  
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab/Recitation. Discussion of biological function with special emphasis on contrasting strategies employed by organisms in meeting similar biological needs. One two-hour lab and a one hour recitation per week. Prerequisite: BYS 119.

BYS 120L - ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY LAB  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 120R - BYS 120 RECITATION  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 202 - HUMAN ANAT & PHYS II/CALHOUN  
Semester Hours: 4

BYS 214 - INFECTION & IMMUNITY  
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab. Two 2-hour labs a week. Principles of microbiology with emphasis on infectious disease of humans; epidemiological and immunological aspects. No credit for students who have credit for BYS 321 or advanced microbiology courses. Recommended for students in the College of Nursing. Prerequisites: BYS 119 and either CH 101 or 121.

BYS 214L - LABORATORY  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 215 - HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I  
Semester Hours: 4

Structure and function of the human body with emphasis on their relationship to disease. Part 1 of a two course sequence. Anatomy and physiology of major organs and organ systems and their relationship to each other. Emphasizes relationships of human systems to applications and simulations. Prerequisites: BYS 119, CH 101 and CH 105.
BYS 215L - HA&P I LABORATORY  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 216 - HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II  
Semester Hours: 4

Structure and function of the human body with emphasis on their relationship to disease. Part II of a two course sequence. Anatomy and Physiology of major organs and organ systems and their relationship to each other. Emphasizes relationships of human systems to applications and simulations. Prerequisite: BYS 215.

BYS 216L - HA&P II LABORATORY  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 219 - GENETICS AND EVOLUTION  
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab/Recitation. Two labs and one recitation per week. Hereditary basis of organisms; genes as the discrete units of inheritance and genes in organisms and populations. Medelian principles and evolutionary processes. Replication, transcription and translation of DNA, RNA, and proteins. Prerequisites: BYS 120 and (CH 101 or CH 121) and (MA 107 or 112).

BYS 219L - LABORATORY  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 219R - BYS 219 RECITATION  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 220 - GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY/CALHOUN  
Semester Hours: 4

BYS 221 - HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY/A&M  
Semester Hours: 3

BYS 221L - A & P I LAB/A&M  
Semester Hour: 1

BYS 241 - GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY/OAKWOOD  
Semester Hours: 4

BYS 281 - INTRO TO FORESTRY/A&M  
Semester Hours: 3

BYS 292 - INTRO TO BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH  
Semester Hours: 3

Introduction to the principles and practices of biological research. Covers experimental design, statistical analysis, critical review of journal articles, responsible conduct of research, and writing for the biological sciences. Recommended for students planning to do undergraduate research. Prerequisites: BYS 119, MA 112, EH 101.

BYS 300 - CELL & DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY  
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab. One lab per week. Introduces the student to topics in cell and developmental biology. Subjects include cell structure, organelles, cytoskeleton, secretory pathway, cell division, cell cycle, cell interaction and control of differentiation. Prerequisites: BYS 219 and either CH 123 or 201.

BYS 300L - CELL & DEVELOPMENT BIO LAB  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 301 - ELEMENTARY BIOCHEMISTRY  
Semester Hours: 3

Biochemistry and energetics of living cells, metabolism, structure and function of carbohydrates, lipids, proteins and nucleic acid. Enzymes, coenzymes, vitamins, blood, endocrine glands, DNA synthesis and gene expression. Same as CH 301. Prerequisites: BYS 120 and either CH 201 or 331.

BYS 302 - PEOPLE, PLANTS & ENVIRONMENT  
Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed to introduce students from multiple departments to the vital roles that plants have in our ecosystems through the study of basic plant and soil science. Special attention is placed on the impact that plants have on our technology-based society.
BYS 311 - INTRO MOLECULAR UNDST BIO SYST
Semester Hours: 3

Introduction to a molecular understanding of genes, gene expression and genetic engineering in selected procaryotic and eucaryotic systems. Includes examples of biotechnology applications. Prerequisites: CH 331.

BYS 312 - PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGY
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab. One lab a week. Population structure and growth, competition, predation, symbiosis, biogeochemical cycling and energy flow, disturbance and community dynamics, biodiversity and conservation. Field trips required. Prerequisites: BYS 120, and BYS 219.

BYS 313 - ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab. One lab a week. Structure and function of the human body. Anatomy of the skeletal and muscular systems, physiology of membranes, cellular and epithelial transport and nervous system function. Appropriate preparation for professional schools/graduate study in biological sciences. Prerequisites: BYS 119. Prerequisites with concurrency: BYS 300, and either CH 201 or 331.

BYS 313L - LABORATORY
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 314 - ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture and one lab a week. Continuation of BYS 313 stressing structural and functional relationships of major organ systems, focusing on heart, brain, lungs, kidney and the gastrointestinal tract. Appropriate for students preparing for professional schools or graduate study in biological sciences. Prerequisites: BYS 313.

BYS 314L - ANATOMY/PHYSIOLOGY II LAB
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 315 - ICHTHYOLOGY
Semester Hours: 4

Classification, anatomy, physiology, and ecology of freshwater and marine fishes. Emphasis fishes of north Alabama. Laboratory and field trips required. Prerequisites: BYS 120 and BYS 219. Prerequisite with concurrency: BYS 300.

BYS 317 - VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
Semester Hours: 5

Lecture/Lab. Two three-hour labs a week. Morphology of vertebrate animals. Relationship of organs and systems and their phylogenetic significance. Prerequisites: BYS 120 and BYS 219. Prerequisite with concurrency: BYS 300.

BYS 318 - VERTEBRATE REPRODUCTION
Semester Hours: 3

General treatment of the major concepts and controversial areas of comparative vertebrate reproduction: ecological and evolutionary aspects, development of reproductive functions and sexual behavior, seasonal breeding and other topics of current interest. Prerequisites: BYS 120 and BYS 219. Prerequisite with concurrency: BYS 300.

BYS 320 - MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY
Semester Hours: 3

The meaning, spelling, etymology and pronunciation of major medical terms related to anatomy, pathology, medical professions, procedures and pharmaceuticals; body systems, their associated diseases and disorders. Correct usage of terms and interpretation of documents containing these terms. Hybrid course with online and in-class portions. Prerequisites: BYS 300 or BYS 215 & 216.

BYS 321 - GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY I
Semester Hours: 4

Structure, biochemistry, and genetics of microorganisms, control of microbial growth, and microorganisms as pathogens. Lab covers basic and diagnostic methods in microbiology, environmental factors controlling microbial growth and survival, and characteristics of medically important microorganisms. Prerequisites: BYS 120, BYS 219. Prerequisite with concurrency: BYS 300.

BYS 321L - LABORATORY
Semester Hours: 0
BYS 322 - GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY II
Semester Hours: 4

Emphasizes diversity of microorganisms with respect to ecology, physiology, and phylogeny. Prerequisites: BYS 321.

BYS 322L - GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY II LAB
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 325 - KINESIOLOGY/ATHENS
Semester Hours: 3

BYS 347 - BIOPHYSICAL CHEMISTRY I
Semester Hours: 3


BYS 348 - BIOPHYSICAL CHEMISTRY II
Semester Hours: 3


BYS 351 - NUTRITION & METABOLISM/ A&M
Semester Hours: 3

BYS 361 - GENERAL BIOCHEMISTRY
Semester Hours: 3

Biochemical structure and function of amino acids, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and nucleic acids; Enzyme catalysis and kinetics; major catabolic pathways, their integration and control mechanisms: Glycolysis, Citric Acid Cycle, Fatty Acid Oxidation and Oxidative Phosphorylation. Same as CH 361. Prerequisites: BYS 120, CH 223, CH 224, CH 332, CH 335 OR BYS 311, CH 332, CH 335.

BYS 362 - GENERAL BIOCHEMISTRY LAB
Semester Hour: 1

One 3-hour lab a week. Practical experience in isolation, qualitative identification, and quantitative estimation of biomolecules. Same as CH 362. Prerequisites: CH 335 and CH 336. Prerequisite with concurrency: CH 361.

BYS 363 - GEN BIOCHEMISTRY II
Semester Hours: 3

A continuation of BYS 361 to include amino acid oxidation, biosynthesis of biomolecules, integration of metabolism, DNA and RNA metabolism, protein biosynthesis, and gene structure. Same as CH 363. Prerequisites: BYS 361.

BYS 364 - BIOGEOGRAPHY
Semester Hours: 3


BYS 365 - GEN BIOCHEMISTRY LAB II
Semester Hour: 1

Experimental course illustrating the topics in BYS 363. Prerequisites: BYS 361 and BYS 362. Prerequisite with concurrency: BYS 363.

BYS 401 - EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab. One lab per week. Basic human physiology differentiated by the effects of exercise. Physiology of major systems of the body that may act as a limiting factor or enhance the performance of human movement. Strongly recommended: BYS 301 or CH 301. Prerequisites: BYS 215 & BYS 216 OR BYS 313 & BYS 314.

BYS 401L - LABORATORY
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 402 - KINESIOLOGY & BIOMECHANICS
Semester Hours: 4

Lecture/Lab. One lab per week. A study of the structural and functional relationships of the human skeletal, muscular and neural systems as they relate to movement of the human body. Prerequisites: BYS 215 & BYS 216 OR BYS 313 & BYS 314.
BYS 402L - LABORATORY  
Semester Hours: 0

BYS 403 - ADV EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY  
Semester Hours: 4
Lecture/Lab. One lab per week. Human physiology, addressing the effects of environmental variables such as altitude, thermal stress and terran on the major physiological systems of the body; in-depth analysis of resistance training, aerobic and anaerobic training; integration of multiple systems. Prerequisites: BYS 401, and BYS/CH 301 or 361.

BYS 405 - PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY  
Semester Hours: 3
Introduction to drug classification and action with emphasis on physiological and psychological interactions.

BYS 408 - BIOCHEMISTRY II /A&M  
Semester Hours: 3

BYS 411 - CELL BIOLOGY/A&M  
Semester Hours: 4

BYS 419 - MICROBIAL GENETICS  
Semester Hours: 3
Transmission, expression, and evolution of genes in microorganisms. Studies of chromosomes, plasmids, transporons, bacteriophages, and other genetic elements. Prerequisites: BYS 219, BYS 300 and BYS 321.

BYS 430 - IMMUNOLOGY  
Semester Hours: 4
Lecture/Lab. One 3-hour lab per week. Innate, humoral and cell-mediated immunity. Immune deficiencies and hypersensitivities. Autoimmunity, transplantation, and tumor immunology. Prerequisites: BYS 219, BYS 300 and BYS 321. Prerequisite with concurrency: CH 361.

BYS 431 - PRINCIPLES OF IMMUNOLOGY/A&M  
Semester Hours: 4

BYS 436 - BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY  
Semester Hours: 3
Functional analysis of neural and endocrine systems underlying behavior. Same as PY 436. Prerequisites: (either a or b): (a) 15 hrs of PY or approval of instructor; (b) BYS 120 or BYS 313, and 6 hours of PY.

BYS 437 - PSYCHOBIOLOGY STRESS & ILLNESS  
Semester Hours: 3
Overview of psychological stress responses and their influence on health, behavior and illness. Same as PY 437. Prerequisites: approval of instructor.

BYS 464 - EVOLUTION  
Semester Hours: 3

BYS 465 - MOLECULAR MTHDS ECLGY & EVOLU  
Semester Hours: 4
This lecture and laboratory course is intended as an intense introduction to modern molecular methods in biological research. Topics include: genetic variation, evolutionary genetics, ecological genetics, genomics, gene expression, phylogenetics, and bioinformatics. Prerequisites: BYS 464.

BYS 490 - SENIOR CAPSTONE  
Semester Hours: 2
Discussions, readings, and presentations of topical biological subjects using scientific literature. Capstone course emphasizing refinement of oral and written communication skills and critical thinking. All students will take ETS Major Field Test in Biology as part of the course grade. Prerequisites: BYS 119, 120, 219, and 300. Senior standing.

BYS 491 - SP TOPICS BIOLOGICAL SCI  
Semester Hours: 1-4
Directed readings and/or written reports on topics of interest to individual students carried out under supervision of an instructor. Prerequisites: Permission of instructor required before registration.
BYS 492 - UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Semester Hours: 2-4
For advanced-level biological sciences students with biological sciences GPA of 3.5 or above. Individual investigations into biological problems under direct supervision of instructor. May also be taken at the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium, Dauphin Island, Alabama. Prerequisites: Permission of instructor required before registration.

BYS 499 - UNGRAD HONORS RES & THESIS
Semester Hours: 2-4
Individual investigations into biological problems under direct supervision of instructor. For honors students majoring in the biological sciences. Prerequisites: Approval of instructor, chair, and director of honors program; Senior Standing.

Marine Sciences
Select courses in marine sciences, available through the Marine Sciences Consortium at The Dauphin Island Sea Lab (http://www.disl.org), may be taken for credit at UAH toward a biological sciences major or minor, a minor in marine sciences, or a Master of Science degree in biological sciences. Marine sciences coursework must be approved by the Marine Sciences Consortium UAH liaison officer in the Biological Sciences Department prior to enrollment in the courses.

MS 202 - MARINE BIOLOGY
Semester Hours: 4
Survey of invertebrates, vertebrates, and marine plants as communities with local examples. Examination of marshland, estuarine, beach, dune, inlet and neritic habitats, and niches. Lecture/Lab/field work. Offered only at the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium Sea Lab at Dauphin Island, AL. Prerequisites: BYS 119 and BYS 120.

MS 204 - COM MARINE FISHERIES/ALA
Semester Hours: 2
Biology, harvesting technology, and processing of commercially valuable fish and shellfish species of Alabama. Offered only at the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium Sea Lab at Dauphin Island, Alabama. No credit for biological sciences major or minor; can be used for marine science minor.

MS 301 - MARINE TECH METHODS I
Semester Hours: 2
Marine science research equipment, methods, and techniques. Operation and field maintenance of major sampling gear. Only at the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium Sea Lab at Dauphin Island, Alabama. No credit for biological sciences major or minor; can be used for a marine science minor. Prerequisites: BYS 119 and BYS 120.

MS 303 - COASTAL CLIMATOLOGY
Semester Hours: 2
Physical factors resulting in climactic conditions in and near coastal region. Emphasis on northern Gulf of Mexico. Only at the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium Sea Lab at Dauphin Island, Alabama. No credit toward a biological sciences major or minor; can be used for a marine science minor.

MS 304 - COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
Semester Hours: 2
Examination of ecological features and physical management policies design for coastal communities and a review of the federal and state programs that impinge upon coastal ecological communities. Only at the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium Sea Lab at Dauphin Island, Alabama.

MS 491 - SPECIAL TOPICS IN MARINE SCIEN
Semester Hours: 1-4