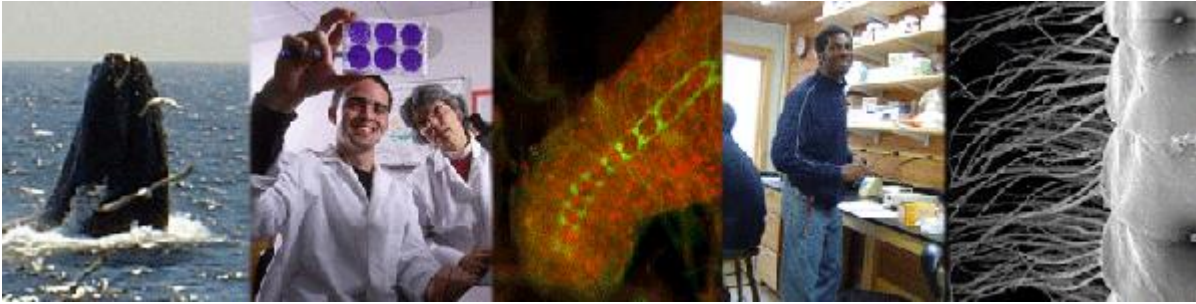


Bates College Biology Department



Our mission is to provide an outstanding, comprehensive undergraduate program in the life sciences within the context of a liberal arts education. In our students, we foster a fundamental understanding of the principles that govern living systems and the methods used to study these systems. We prepare students for future careers in the life sciences, to understand biological issues and to use scientific thinking in their future lives. We offer classes and laboratory sessions that include inquiry-based studies, and we emphasize scientific thought, not just the acquisition of information. Our program promotes the development of problem-solving, writing, quantitative, and critical-thinking skills; it also nurtures independent research, collaborative effort, and self-expression. We value cross disciplinary approaches in the pursuit of knowledge and skills. Faculty accessibility to students is a priority, and we offer small classes, labs, and research experiences that promote student and faculty interaction. We seek to increase the participation of underrepresented segments of the population in our programs and to support the high achievement of all students. To sustain these values and goals we recruit diverse faculty and staff with research and teaching strengths that complement our program and enrich our vision.



Bio 190 students investigating the function of plant hormones.

Our curriculum is organized around these shared values. We offer introductory courses – open to any Bates College student – that provide in-depth coverage over a broad range of topics. Three core courses for majors build essential skills and utilize collaborative investigative laboratory studies, which we named the Principal Investigator system, and is based on methodology used in scientific research. Upper-level electives and independent study opportunities span all sub-disciplines and all levels of biological organization, and provide avenues for the pursuit of the specialized interests of majors and students in interdisciplinary programs. Upper-level students have opportunities to serve as laboratory teaching assistants, peer writing assistants, and peer assisted learning group leaders. We value independent intellectual growth, and a required two-course senior capstone experience can be fulfilled using a variety of options: thesis, seminar and research, senior seminar, approved off-campus research and service learning experiences.

Biology Major Plan of Study

- 2 semesters of general chemistry
- either 2 semesters of organic chemistry or 1 of organic and 1 of biostatistics
- 10 biology courses
 - 3 course core sequence starting winter semester of first year
 - 7 electives, including 2 or 3 semesters of research and seminar or thesis

Completion of a capstone experience that includes either research and seminar courses, thesis research mentored by Biology faculty or with prior approval, seminar plus a service-learning project.

A satisfactory performance on the departmental comprehensive exam, or by achieving a score corresponding to the fiftieth percentile or better on the Graduate Record Exam Subject Test in Biology.



Pam Baker (L) Will Ambrose (C) Beth Whalon, AI (R)

The Biology Department is comprised of nine faculty, three visiting faculty, two lecturers, and ten academic and technical support staff members. The faculty teach a wide range of courses and support a range of undergraduate research opportunities including Honors thesis, thesis, independent study, and small Research and Seminar courses. The support staff includes two full time Assistants in Instruction (lab instructors), half-time contributions from AIs in the Biological Chemistry and Neurobiology programs, a biology technician who manages the stockroom and departmental accounting, and a technician who oversees laboratory and building-wide safety, research animal care, and greenhouse facilities.

Contact

Academics

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Bates College is a nationally recognized and innovative college of the liberal arts and sciences. A globally and locally engaged community of intellectually bold students and faculty from around the world, Bates offers an academically rigorous and exceptionally personalized education guided by extraordinary faculty mentors in an inclusive and unpretentious environment.