

BS BIOLOGY –

MARINE

EMPHASIS



A juvenile California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) off the coast of Baja Sur, Mexico. Taken during the summer tropical marine research course (BIOL 437) in La Paz, Mexico.

Image provided by Dr. Ben Miner.

In the heart of the Salish Sea, Western is in an ideal location for undergraduates studying marine sciences. The Biology – Marine Emphasis major provides a thorough introduction to the basic areas of biology and supporting sciences while allowing specialization in marine biology. Students explore the structure and function of marine organisms and their relationship with the environment. A highlight for most students in this emphasis is the opportunity to enroll in courses taught at Western's Shannon Point Marine Center located in Anacortes, WA (about an hour from Bellingham). These all-day courses give students the opportunity to delve deeply into marine ecology and algal diversity, and include boat-based research and trips to nearby islands.

To learn more about this major, visit the university catalog – catalog.wvu.edu

For a complete overview of course requirements for this program, access Degree Works via Web4u

Join the conversation: [facebook.com/groups/wwubiology](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wwubiology)



WWU is an equal opportunity institution.
To request this document in an alternate format, please contact biologyadvising@wwu.edu.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

"The biology department has fostered many of my deep relationships with both peers and professors as an undergrad. I have gotten to work in tight-knit groups both in labs on campus, as well as in the field at the Shannon Point Marine Center and abroad."

- Laura Anthony,
NOAA Hollings Scholarship Recipient



SAMPLE CAREER PATHWAYS

Marine Scientist

Fisheries Biologist

Ecologist

Conservation Biologist

Naturalist

Laboratory Technician



FACULTY ADVISORS

Alejandro Acevedo-Gutiérrez

Shawn Arellano

Deborah Donovan

Robin Kodner

Benjamin Miner

Craig Moyer

Brady Olson



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

BIOL 407
Marine Ecology

BIOL 464
Marine Mammals

BIOL 403
Ecological Physiology

BIOL 460
Invertebrate Biology

BIOL 456
Algae

BIOL 437A & 437B
Tropical Marine Research

SAMPLE FIRST YEAR SCHEDULE

ALEKS Score:	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Prior completion of Calc. 1	BIOL 204 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs	BIOL 205 CHEM 162 3-5 cr. non-science GURs	BIOL 206 CHEM 163 3-5 cr. non-science GURs
80	MATH 124 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs	BIOL 204 CHEM 162 3-5 cr. non-science GURs	BIOL 205 CHEM 163 3-5 cr. non-science GURs
70	MATH 118 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs	MATH 124 CHEM 162 3-5 cr. non-science GURs	BIOL 204 CHEM 163 3-5 cr. non-science GURs
55	MATH 114 7-10 cr. non-science GURs	MATH 115 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs	MATH 124 CHEM 162 3-5 cr. non-science GURs
35	MATH 112 7-10 credits of non-science GURs	MATH 114 7-10 credits of non-science GURs	MATH 115 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs

COURSE LOAD

Due to the heavy workload associated with lab-based courses, students are advised to take no more than two science courses per quarter (including math) during their first year. Course load will increase as students move through their program requirements.

DECLARING A BIOLOGY MAJOR

There is a two-step process for admission into all Biology degree programs. Phase I majors are students who have declared their intent to major in Biology and are in the process of completing the introductory biology and chemistry series (BIOL 204, 205, 206 & CHEM 161, 162, 163). Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.9 across these courses before they are advanced to Phase II and may begin taking upper-division courses. During their last quarter of Phase I, students will be required to attend a Phase II Advising Workshop prior to being advanced.

COURSE PLANNING WORKSHEET

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
Year 1				
Year 2				
Year 3				
Year 4				