This degree program focuses on the structure, function, ecology, and evolution of organisms, with an emphasis on plants and animals. Western’s Biology programs are based on an integrated conceptual foundation in biology, critical thinking skills, quantitative problem-solving abilities, leadership with team-building skills, and scientific research skills. Because of the wide array of elective options for this major, the Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology emphasis is a terrific degree for students interested in careers in field research, in veterinary medicine, or in pursuing graduate education in ecology, evolutionary biology, or organismal biology.

Dr. Robin Kodner surveying snow algae on the White Chuck Glacier on the flanks of Glacier Peak in the Washington Cascades.

**HOT TOPICS**

- Are more diverse forests better at cycling nutrients?
- Do animals have different personalities?

To learn more about this major, visit the university catalog — catalog.wwu.edu

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

"Part of the reason I decided to come to Western was to do research as an undergrad and I was not disappointed. Becoming an undergraduate student researcher has been a highlight of my college career."

- Alisa Aist

**SAMPLE CAREER PATHWAYS**

- Botanist
- Conservation Biologist
- Educator
- Environmental Consultant
- Field Biologist
- Evolutionary Biologist

**FACULTY ADVISORS**

Roger Anderson    Brady Olson
Shawn Arellano    Merrill Peterson
Eric DeChaine     Dietmar Schwarz
David Hooper      Anu Singh-Cundy
Robin Kodner      Jeffrey Young
Benjamin Miner    Matthew Zinkgraf

**CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS**

- BIOL 424 Applied Molecular Ecology
- BIOL 497P Genes to Ecosystems
- BIOL 452 Systematic Botany
- BIOL 462 Entomology
- BIOL 453 Mycology
- BIOL 467 Comparative Vertebrate Physiology
### SAMPLE FIRST YEAR SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALEKS Score:</th>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>WINTER</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prior completion of Calc. 1</td>
<td>BIOL 204 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 205 CHEM 162 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 206 CHEM 163 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>MATH 124 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 204 CHEM 162 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 205 CHEM 163 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
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<td>MATH 118 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 124 CHEM 162 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 204 CHEM 163 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
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<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>MATH 114 7-10 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 115 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 124 CHEM 162 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>MATH 112 7-10 credits of non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 114 7-10 credits of non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 115 CHEM 161 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
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**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.

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**APPLYING TO THE BIOLOGY MAJOR**

To become a Biology Major and take upper-division Biology courses, students must complete the Biology Major Application. The application covers three areas:

- Responses to the four essay prompts
- A Knowledge Assessment score
- A cumulative grade-point average (GPA) for BIOL 204, BIOL 205, CHEM 161, and CHEM 162 (or the equivalent courses)

Students who have applied to be a Biology pre-major will be able to access the application via Canvas. The application deadline is the first Friday of the quarter prior to the quarter you plan to start your major. To be eligible to apply, students must have completed BIOL 204, BIOL 205, CHEM 161, and CHEM 162 (or equivalent courses) with a C- or greater.

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**COURSE PLANNING WORKSHEET**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
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<th>SPRING</th>
<th>SUMMER</th>
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