

# Biology Major University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Academic Advising Syllabus

### Advising Staff

<b>Carley Garvens</b> (caley.garvens@wisc.edu /2526 Microbial Sciences Bldg)	Advises Students: A-Di
<b>Brittany Magrady</b> (bmagrady@wisc.edu/2532 Microbial Sciences Bldg)	Advises students: Dj- Kh
<b>Sarah Kuba</b> (sarah.kuba@wisc.edu/2523 Microbial Science Bldg)	Advises students: Ki-L
<b>Damien Parks</b> (dmparks2@wisc.edu/2528 Microbial Science Bldg)	Advises students: M-R
<b>Brian Asen</b> (brian.asen@wisc.edu/2452 Microbial Sciences Bldg)	Advises students: S-Z

### Biology Major

The **Biology Major** is an academic program within the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences **and** the College of Letters and Science. Within the Biology major are two sub-plans: Plant Biology Named Option and Evolutionary Biology Named Option.

- **Learning Outcomes for undergraduate education in the Biology Major**
  - Know and understand core concepts that unify the breadth of biological sciences including: evolution; structure and function; information flow, exchange, and storage; pathways for transformations of energy and matter; and systems.
  - Demonstrate practical skills of a professional biologist including: problem-solving by engaging the process of science; written and verbal proficiency; laboratory skills; quantitative analysis skills; and teamwork skills.
  - Graduates will be able to engage and make broader connections to other scientific disciplines and society.

### Biology Major Advising

Advisors for the Biology Major consider academic advising to be an integral part of a student's educational experience. We recognize students' individual circumstances and academic interests and are committed to providing advising that facilitates student development and communicates accurate information regarding degree requirements, curricular options, and policies/procedures of the major and their College. Students within the major are assigned based on last name. Advising appointments are not mandatory, but we do encourage our advisees to seek out their advisor on a regular basis.

- **Advisor Communication**
  - UW-Madison Email and the Biology Major Newsletter are the primary means by which Biology Major Advising communicates with students.
- **Scheduling Appointments**
  - Biology Major Advisors utilize **Starfish** for the scheduling of advising appointments.

### Advisor and Advisee Responsibilities

Advisor responsibilities:

- Understand and effectively communicate UW-Madison degree requirements.
- Encourage, support, and guide students as they create, develop, and define academic and career goals.
- Assist student in the planning of their educational experience (degree planning, out of class experiences, etc.).
- Respond to email in a timely manner and be available to students during designated advising hours.
- Provide students with information and strategies for utilizing campus resources.

- Uphold the values, policies, and procedures of CALS, L&S, and UW-Madison.
- Adhere to UW-Madison privacy standards (see additional information below).

#### Student responsibilities:

- Seek out advisors, instructors, and staff members on a regular basis, regarding your education.
- Craft a coherent educational plan based on assessment of your abilities, aspirations, interests, and values.
- Regularly review your academic progress and assume responsibility for meeting degree requirements.
- Read both print and electronic university communication and respond when required.
- Assume responsibility for all decisions and actions which may impact your academic and career options.

### Why should I meet with my academic advisor?

Biology Major advisors seek to ensure that you are successful in your time at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Success looks different for every student, so to help you achieve your own definition of success, it is important for us to understand what your priorities and goals are. The more we know about you and your own goals, the more we can help you to craft your journey here at UW-Madison. You do have the option to minimally use your advisor, but we encourage you to utilize advising in the most efficient and helpful ways possible.

### Common Advising Topics

- Interests, abilities, & values
- Academic policies
- Academic performance
- Personal challenges
- Campus climate
- Involvement on campus
- Campus resources
- Class registration
- Class drop
- Semester/4-Year planning
- Tutoring resources
- Transfer of credits
- Research
- Studying abroad
- Career goals

### Recommended Campus Resources

- [Academic Support \(tutoring & learning support resources\)](https://academicsupport.wisc.edu/): <https://academicsupport.wisc.edu/>
- Career Services
  - [CALS Career Services](https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/career-services/): <https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/career-services/>
  - [SuccessWorks \(L&S Career Services\)](https://successworks.wisc.edu/): <https://successworks.wisc.edu/>
- [International Student Services](https://iss.wisc.edu/): <https://iss.wisc.edu/>
- [McBurney Disability Resource Center](https://mcburney.wisc.edu/): <https://mcburney.wisc.edu/>
- [International Academic Programs](https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/): <https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/>
- [CALS Study Abroad](https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/studyabroad/): <https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/studyabroad/>
- [Center for Pre-Health Advising](https://prehealth.wisc.edu/): <https://prehealth.wisc.edu/>
- [Center for Pre-Law Advising](https://prelaw.wisc.edu/): <https://prelaw.wisc.edu/>
- UW Health Services
  - [Medical Services](https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/medical/): <https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/medical/>
  - [Mental Health](https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/mental-health/): <https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/mental-health/>

### Privacy

While Biology Major advisors do adhere to guidelines set forth by the Family & Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](https://registrar.wisc.edu/ferpa/)) (<https://registrar.wisc.edu/ferpa/>), it should also be understood that we are mandatory reporters **not** [Confidential Campus Resources](https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/student-information/#additional-resources) (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/student-information/#additional-resources>). Disclosure of certain information communicated to advisors is required to be communicated to other support offices on campus (such as the Dean of Students or the Title IX Coordinator). If you prefer to have certain information only disclosed to a Confidential Campus Resource, we can help you to connect with these resources.