

## Biology Bachelor of Science 2025-2026

**Nature of Work:** Biological scientists study living organisms, cells, or biological molecules. After obtaining an undergraduate degree, most biologists go on to study a specialized area within the life sciences. Biological specializations include marine biology, limnology, biochemistry, botany, microbiology, physiology, zoology, ecology, agricultural science, molecular biology, immunology, and neurobiology. Biologists may work in government or private jobs in biotechnology, teaching, park service (e.g., park naturalist), fish and wildlife (research or game management), university research programs, and professional programs in the medical field. Federal, state, and local governments employ approximately four in ten non-faculty scientists. Within any specialization, biological science presents diverse opportunities such as travel, flexible work schedules, varied responsibilities, professional recognition, and high job satisfaction.

**Professional Training:** Biologists are usually required to have a Ph.D. degree for postsecondary teaching, independent research, and advancement into administrative positions. A master's degree suffices for most jobs in applied research and for jobs in management, inspection, sales, and services. The bachelor's degree is adequate for some beginning or entry-level jobs and many with a bachelor's enter medical, dental, veterinary, or other health profession schools.

**Job Outlook:** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of environmental scientists is expected to grow 6 percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations, while employment for conservation, wildlife, and microbiology fields will increase at about the average rate. About 6,900 openings for environmental scientists and specialists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. (See [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)) Environmental scientists and specialists should have good job opportunities. In addition to growth, many job openings will be created by scientists who retire, advance to management positions, or change careers. Candidates may improve their employment prospects by gaining hands-on experience through an internship.

**Earnings:** The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in May, 2023 the median annual salary for environmental scientists and specialists was \$78,980. (See [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov))

**Note:** Biology majors are expected to take two 5 credit biology elective courses from the Rosario Marine Station summer program.

Additional electives are required on the main campus to complete degree requirements.

If one is interested in secondary teaching, certification requirements must be worked into the schedule. Student teaching should be planned for the senior year. Students seeking teaching certification must see an adviser in the School of Education and Psychology.

**Before graduation, all students must take an exit exam.**

### BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Rigby Hall  
(509) 527-2602

#### Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)  
[University Bulletin](#)

[Biology Department](#)

#### Faculty

Chair

[David Lindsey](#)

Advisors

[CJ Brothers](#)

[David Cowles](#)

[David Lindsey](#)

[Jim Nestler](#)

[Kirt Onthank](#)

#### Professional Organizations

[American Institute of Biological Sciences](#)

#### Science Jobs

[www.aibs.org/careers/](http://www.aibs.org/careers/)

[www.sciencejobs.org](http://www.sciencejobs.org)

[www.biologyjobs.com](http://www.biologyjobs.com)

## Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 192 cr. GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS: 64-69 cr. [See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details](#)

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a bachelor's degree in Biology.

Cognates are listed in *italics*.

### Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
General Biology & Lab ( <a href="#">BIOL 141 &amp; 141L</a> )	4
Math Option ( <a href="#">MATH 121</a> )	(4)
Intro to Analytical Writing ( <a href="#">ENGL 121</a> )	3
General Studies	5-9
<b>Total</b>	16

Winter Courses	Hours
General Biology & Lab ( <a href="#">BIOL 142 &amp; 142L</a> )	4
Math Option ( <a href="#">MATH 122</a> )	4
Intro to Research Writing ( <a href="#">ENGL 122</a> )	3
General Studies	5
<b>Total</b>	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Biology & Lab ( <a href="#">BIOL 143 &amp; 143L</a> )	4
General Studies	8-12
<b>Total</b>	16

### Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Intro to Biological Research I ( <a href="#">BIOL 216</a> )	3
General Chemistry & Lab ( <a href="#">CHEM 141 &amp; 144</a> )	4
General Physics & Lab ( <a href="#">PHYS 211 &amp; 214</a> )	4
Research Writing ( <a href="#">ENGL 223</a> )	3
General Studies	2
<b>Total</b>	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Biostatistics ( <a href="#">BIOL 250</a> )	4
General Chemistry & Lab ( <a href="#">CHEM 142 &amp; 145</a> )	4
General Physics & Lab ( <a href="#">PHYS 212 &amp; 215</a> )	4
General Studies	4
<b>Total</b>	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Ecology ( <a href="#">BIOL 305</a> )	4
General Chemistry & Lab ( <a href="#">CHEM 143 &amp; 146</a> )	4
General Physics & Lab ( <a href="#">PHYS 213 &amp; 216</a> )	4
General Studies	4
<b>Total</b>	16

^ At least one additional chemistry course is strongly recommended.

- [BIOL 483](#): Once every 3 years it is taught in the Fall quarter.

\*[BIOL 495](#): 6 Colloquium Required

### Junior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Cell Biology I ( <a href="#">BIOL 381</a> )	4
^ Organic Chemistry & Lab ( <a href="#">CHEM 321 &amp; 324</a> )	5
Journal Club ( <a href="#">BIOL 326</a> )	(1)
Colloquium ( <a href="#">BIOL 495</a> )	0
General Studies	6-7
<b>Total</b>	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Cell Biology II ( <a href="#">BIOL 382</a> )	4
^ Organic Chemistry & Lab ( <a href="#">CHEM 322 &amp; 325</a> )	5
Journal Club ( <a href="#">BIOL 326</a> )	(1)
Colloquium ( <a href="#">BIOL 495</a> )	0
General Studies	6-7
<b>Total</b>	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Journal Club ( <a href="#">BIOL 326</a> )	(1)
Colloquium ( <a href="#">BIOL 495</a> )	0
Biology Electives	4-8
General Studies	7-11
<b>Total</b>	16

### Summer Quarter

Rosario Marine Station: Biology Electives

### Senior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Colloquium ( <a href="#">BIOL 495</a> )	0
Biology Electives	8
General Studies	8
<b>Total</b>	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Colloquium ( <a href="#">BIOL 495</a> )	0
~ Philosophy of Origins & Speciation ( <a href="#">BIOL 483</a> )	3
Biology Electives	4-8
General Studies	5-9
<b>Total</b>	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Senior Seminar ( <a href="#">BIOL 496</a> )	2
Colloquium ( <a href="#">BIOL 495</a> )	0
Biology Electives	4-8
General Studies	6-10
<b>Total</b>	16

+ Offered even years only

- Offered odd years only

### Office of Academic Advisement

Canaday Technology Center, Room 311 • (800) 558-2132 • (509) 527-2132