



DEPARTMENT OF

BIOLOGY

Get the Right Classes

IN YOUR FIRST SEMESTER YOU SHOULD ENROLL IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

- **Bio 199 or BIO 198** - Biology Orientation (1 credit). This course covers a range of topics including information on career paths in Biology, planning your academic courses, and advice on getting into jobs or graduate schools. BIO 199 is intended for Biology and Biomedical Science majors and BIO 198 is intended for Fisheries, Range, and Wildlife majors.
- **BIO 180** - Introduction to Biology I (3 credits). This is the first of our two-semester course in Introductory Biology. It is the required starting point for each of our majors. It covers topics in molecular and cellular biology and is a prerequisite for all future biology courses. We pick some of our best instructors to teach this course. All sections use the same resources, follow the same schedule of topics, and use the same exams. This means you can pick whichever time slot works best for you. Because we are all on the same schedule, we also invite any Bio 180 student (not just our own) into any of our office hours.
- **BIO 180L** - Introduction to Biology I Lab (1 credit). This is the lab companion to the Bio 180 course. 2-hour sections are scheduled throughout the week so pick the one that works best for your schedule. The course focuses on developing scientific literacy and thinking skills.



Steven Christenson

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

(208) 496-4609

CHRISTENSONS@BYUI.EDU

Welcome to the Department of Biology! My name is Steve and I am the Biology Department Chair. We are excited for you to arrive on campus and begin your studies in Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Fisheries, Range & Wildlife Management (FRW), or Biology Education. I have been pondering on what things I would want my sons or daughter to know as they entered their first year of college. This letter contains a few pieces of advice that I have come up with.

- [REL 200 C](#) - The Eternal Family (2 credits). In all honesty, you can select any religion course this is just the first one in the required series of religion courses.
- [General Education Course](#) (3 credits). With BIO 180 you are off to a good start in your major, but you will also want to get a start on your general education courses. ENG 150, or PSYCH 111 are department recommended choices, particularly if you are in Biomedical Sciences. However, any selection from the Writing, Social Science, or Arts and Humanities section will work.
- [GE 101](#) - Growth and Grit (1 credit) This course will help you adapt to your new life at college. It includes discussions on study habits, goal setting, anxiety & depression, and a host of other topics important to incoming students.

You should take one more class to complete your first semester, but which course is really up to you and the major you have selected. If you are still exploring what you want to do with your biology degree, you may want to take [GESCI 110](#) – Sustaining Human Life. This science course covers how we as a human society will feed and care for the ever-increasing population of planet Earth. It not only tackles major issues facing society but also highlights potential career paths aimed at solving these problems. You may also want to look at registering for your first math class. A minimum of College Algebra ([MATH 110X](#)) or Pre-Calculus ([MATH 109](#)) is needed for the General Chemistry class required in Biology and Biomedical Science programs. Math 109 is a merger of Algebra ([MATH 110X](#)) and Trigonometry ([MATH 111](#)). Trigonometry is needed for the introductory physics series required in Biomedical Sciences and can be taken separately as MATH 111 or by taking MATH 109. If you are anxious about your math skills, then you may want to take Intermediate Algebra ([MATH 101](#)). If you scored a 27 or higher on the Math ACT portion, then you should consider heading right into Calculus I ([MATH 112X](#)).

If you have questions regarding classes, contact your Academic Advisor in the College of Agriculture and Life Science:

(208) 496-9830

calsadvising@byui.edu

Go see your professors

I know many of you have done well in High School, that's why you're heading to college. Don't be surprised if you find college to be more demanding. I have many students in my BIO 180 class who struggle during the first weeks of class and start to feel discouraged, embarrassed, and inadequate. My advice is don't quit, but please go in and talk to your professor. At BYU-Idaho, our sole responsibility is to teach and advise students. It is our specialty, and we are good at it. You need not feel embarrassed, we see students struggle all the time and we have great respect for the ones that are both courageous enough and determined enough to come in and get the help they need. We can evaluate your study habits and give some recommendations based on years of working with students just like you. I have seen students receive a 62% on their first exam in BIO 180 and then with the right help and resources steadily advance and achieve a 96% on their last exam. They achieved this remarkable turnaround because they didn't try to "go it alone" but instead enlisted the help of knowledgeable and caring instructors. I invite you to do the same.

Get your schedule reviewed

Finally, the faculty in our department are each assigned to a different major or emphasis in which they specialize. Each semester I counsel students whose graduation has been delayed because they did not know which courses to take and when to take them. Our faculty can advise you on which GE course might best complement your program, which electives might best prepare you for medical school, or which sequence of courses will move you toward your degree most quickly. My recommendation is to meet with a program faculty at least once a year if not once a semester to plan and revise your schedule. Below I have listed at least one advisor for each of the programs or emphases that we offer.

In closing, I want to reiterate our excitement to have you here on campus. We are grateful that you have chosen BYU-Idaho as your campus and that you have chosen the Biology Department as your home on that campus. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Christenson
Chair, Department of Biology

Program	Advisor	Email
Biology Education	Ehren Haderlie	haderliee@byui.edu
Biomedical Sciences	Steve Christenson	christensons@byui.edu
	Jason Hunt	huntj@byui.edu
	Robert Burns	burnsr@byui.edu
	Jason Shaw	shawja@byui.edu
Biology: Neuroscience	Clair Eckersell	eckersellc@byui.edu
Biology: Biotechnology	Cody Smith	smithcod@byui.edu
	Cody Diehl	Diehlc@byui.edu
Biology: Applied Lab Science	Seth Ririe	rories@byui.edu
Biology: Bioinformatics	Michael Terribilini	terribilinim@byui.edu
Biology: Microbiology	Mark Dewall	Dewallm@byui.edu
FRW: Wildlife Management	Jericho Whiting	Whitingj@byui.edu
FRW: Range Management	Tate Carter	Cartert@byui.edu
FRW: Fisheries Management	Eric Billman	billmane@byui.edu

BYU-Idaho Campus Map

Biology classes are primarily held in the Benson building.

