Student Success Map

B.S. in Biological Sciences – Option in Plant Biology
Department of Biological Sciences

Essentials for Every Semester
- Mandatory major advising is required prior to registration each semester.
- For general course selection, consult Advisers in SSC 220.
- Meet deadlines to register, pay fees, and apply for financial aid.
- Check your DPR. Are you on-track to meet requirements?
- Complete a sufficient number of units each term (15–16 units) to graduate in four years. Some programs require more.
- Check your Student Center prior to registration holds and updating your personal info.
- Check your Student Center in the first two weeks of classes to confirm your class schedule and that all adds and drops have been processed as you expected.
- Check your Student Center after each semester for your grades and academic standing. If your GPA drops below a 2.0, consult an Advisor.

FRESHMAN
Learn where to find and how to use campus resources such as the Student Learning Center, Health Center, Academic Advising, Wellness Center, Writing Center, and your faculty advisor.
- Visit each of your instructors during their office hours. Make a point to get to know your professors.
- Obtain your Major Academic Plan (MAP). It will enable you and your advisor to plan for each semester.
- If you need preparatory math and/or English courses, complete them in your first year.
- Take BIOL 151, 109, 152; CHEM 111 and 112; PHYS 202A and B.

SOPHOMORE
Know how to use your Degree Progress Report (DPR) in your Student Center. Go to Academic Advising for help.
- Complete your GE Foundation courses. Explore GE Pathways: Consider completing an interdisciplinary minor within your GE. Consult an advisor for help.
- Consider an internship to explore your major and build professional skills. Internships provide you with valuable work experience prior to graduation.
- Attend seminars on plant sciences! Consider volunteering in your field, for example in the herbarium or through the Gateway Science Museum.
- Consider working on a research project with a faculty mentor for credit in BIOL 399.
- Join Omicron Theta Epsilon, the biology honors society.

JUNIOR
Apply for graduation one year in advance of your expected graduation date.
- Begin your Upper Division GE Pathway courses.
- Take BIOL 360, 369, 414, 492; ENV 105; MATH 315.
- Review your involvement, leadership, and cultural experiences. Have you participated in on- or off-campus activities such as clubs, community service, recreational opportunities, musical, dramatic or cultural performances, lectures or forums?
- Explore Study Abroad opportunities. Attend an info meeting they offer every semester. Consider National Student Exchange.
- Consider a time management workshop in the Student Learning Center.
- Use the Career Center to assess your interests, skills, and work values.
- Talk to professionals in your field of study.
- Google your “dream job” and make sure you take all the courses required in the application.

SENIOR
Confirm graduation progress with an Evaluator.
- Complete all major requirements.
- If you want to be a molecular plant scientist, take BIOL 408, 442, 446, 448, and 447.
- If you want to be more of a field botanist, take BIOL 408, 442, 448, 451, 484, and 446.
- Apply for jobs during your last semester. Alternatively prepare your applications to graduate school and arrange to take the GRE.
- Complete a sufficient number of units each term (15–16 units) to graduate in four years. Some programs require more.
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Get Good Advice

Take the Right Classes

Apply What You Learn

Connect with Peers

Think Globally

Prepare for Life After Graduation

Private Sector
- Consulting Firm Botanist
- Restorationist
- Ecologist

Government
- Botanist
- Plant Ecologist
- Teacher
- Weed specialist

Non-Profits
- Botanist
- Plant Ecologist
- Seed Collections

Other Careers
- Research Technician
- Economic Botanist
- Molecular Plant Scientist
- greenhouse Manager

Other Careers
- Greenhouse Manager
- Plant Ecologist
- Seed Collections

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