

Biology

Advising Packet



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Biological Sciences



Welcome to the Department of Biological Sciences at Boise State University. We've created this packet to offer you some support and ideas for success in the biology major. This does not replace the many advising conversations we hope to have with you over the next four years! Please reach out to us any time you have a question or concern. We are happy to help! – **Advising Team (Maribel, Alex, and Clay).**

We offer a comprehensive undergraduate and graduate education that spans the breadth of contemporary biological sciences and prepares students for real world careers. We have award-winning professors who combine their enthusiasm for classroom teaching with cutting edge research.

The department is a vibrant place with more than 900 students currently pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in biology. Even with this large number, faculty, and students work in close collaboration.

Undergraduate students pursue a broad-based and highly flexible biology curriculum and choose from one of four emphasis areas: General Biology Emphasis; Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Emphasis; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Emphasis; or Secondary Education Emphasis. Every emphasis area is designed to allow students to tailor their degree to their specific interests and career goals.

We also offer a Master's Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Raptor Biology. We offer two doctoral programs, Biomolecular Sciences PhD and Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior PhD.

Updated 5/20/2020

Biology Advising Team

Maribel Saucedo-Gonzalez

First Time Freshmen – You'll find your advisor, **Maribel Saucedo-Gonzalez**, in the Center for Advising and Student Success. Maribel provides advising for your first and second semester courses, as well as offering a world of information about how to improve your first year of college. Freshmen and transfer students with less than 30 credits.

Office Location: RFH 117

Riverfront Hall, [1987 Cesar Chavez Lane](#), Boise, Idaho 83725

Book an appointment online at: <https://bioladvisor.youcanbook.me/>



Alex Urquhart

Sophomores & Juniors – Make an appointment with, **Alex Urquhart** if you have questions about your next semester schedule or would like to explore the biology major and the courses we offer. Alex is a biology course instructor with years of experience in our department. Students with less than 90 credits.

Office Location: SCNC 139

Science/Education, [2133 W Cesar Chavez Ln](#), Boise, Idaho 83725

Book an appointment online at: <https://bioladvisor.youcanbook.me/>



Always sign in on the iPad in the front Office.

Clay Cox

Sophomore, Junior, Senior, and Transfer Students – Make an appointment with **Clay Cox** in the Department of Biological Sciences. Clay can help you with multiple-semester scheduling, answer questions about transfer credits or academic adjustments, and address any issues that may keep you from being successful. All transfer students, and any students with 30 or more credits. Biology minors, second degree seeking students and prospective students.

Seniors must meet with Clay for a **Senior Graduation Check** prior to their last semester!

Office Location: SCNC 107A

Science/Education, [2133 W Cesar Chavez Ln](#), Boise, Idaho 83725

Book an appointment online at: <https://bioladvisor.youcanbook.me/>



Please book an appointment in advance for most advising services. Clay also offers “**Drop-In ZOOM Advising**”. Drop-in appointments are reserved for quick questions, signing forms, and scheduling questions only. Please book a regular appointment for most advising services.

Drop-In ZOOM Advising Schedule for Clay: Join here: <https://boisestate.zoom.us/j/93497762068>

Tues & Thurs 10am – 12pm (No check-ins after 11:50) - **Fall & Spring Semesters Only! Begins Aug. 25th**

Email Advising Questions: Feel free to send us an email if you have a short question or two. **Always include your student ID number with every email.** Email questions to: bioladvisor@boisestate.edu.

Advising Basics

Degree Progress & Course Scheduling

Accurately track your progress using the [Academic Requirements](#) report. Your advisor can always help – but it is best if you are able to monitor your own progress. Thinking about adding a different emphasis area or trying out a new major? Run a What-If Report – available from the same menu as your Academic Requirements Report. This allows you to explore your options without actually changing your major.

Academic Requirements Report: <https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar/degree-requirements/aar/>

Undergraduate Checksheets: <https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar-catalog/undergraduate-checksheets/>

Future Course Offerings: <https://www.boisestate.edu/biology/undergraduate-advising-new/future-course-offerings/>

Biology/Botany/Zoology Permission Number Request

Form: <https://www.boisestate.edu/biology/about/departments/forms/permission-number-request-form/>

Required Advising Holds

First time students (new and transfer) are required to meet with an advisor before they can register for their second semester classes. Book an appointment with your [assigned advisor](#) as soon as you see the Required Advising Hold appear on your student center. This will be your only required advising appointment but we recommend seeing your advisor every semester.

Enrollment Appointment

Your Registration Date is also referred to as “Enrollment Appointment” is on your student center. This is not an “in-person” appointment; rather it is the date and time you can begin registering for the next semester. We encourage you to register as close to your assigned Enrollment Appointment as possible.

Regular Advising

We recommend meeting with an academic advisor regularly. Advising provides you with essential information along with important strategies for academic, personal, and professional success.

- Biology Advising Page - <https://www.boisestate.edu/biology/undergraduate-advising-new/>
- Discuss your career goals and plans.
- Review classes, prerequisites, and schedules, keeping in mind possible curriculum changes that may not be listed in the catalog.
- Advisors can often provide helpful strategies for getting into closed classes and can also act as your advocate.
- Customize your degree requirements to supplement your future educational/professional goals.
- Help ensure that required classes are completed in a timely manner, and that you are on schedule for graduation.
- Information about campus resources and understanding university policies.
- Allows your advisor to get to know you, so they can provide a reference if needed later for applications for employment or graduate and professional schools.

Getting the Most from your Biology Degree

Academic & Personal Success

At Boise State, you have an entire network of people and programs to help you reach your goals and move forward with confidence. Use this site to find any resource or support system you need at any stage of your Boise State adventure. <https://www.boisestate.edu/studentlife/>

STUDENT LIFE
ESSENTIALS

Take a look at the services provided by Advising and Academic Support Center. To see a full description of their services, visit <https://www.boisestate.edu/aasc/>. Perhaps the most relevant topic for new biology majors is the Academic Support Resources where you can find information about tutoring, workshops, and study skills development.

Learning Assistant Program for many courses including Math, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics: <https://www.boisestate.edu/aasc/academicsupportservices/boise-state-learning-assistant-program/>

Please talk to me if you are having any other issues that are impacting your ability to succeed. I can help you locate resources, make plans, and develop strategies to keep you successful!



Nearly one half of our incoming students are “First Generation.” This means you may be the first person in your immediate family to attend and complete college. Ask your advisor about the resources available for you and your family!

Student Diversity & Inclusion
<https://www.boisestate.edu/sdi/>

Career Advising

We are happy to help you explore the multitude of career opportunities available to biology majors. The best advice we can give you – start your career planning now! Make use of the services at the Career Center - <https://www.boisestate.edu/career/>. They can help you in every step of the career path starting with major exploration, planning your career, and the job search!

Get Involved!

Getting involved may mean more than you think because the answer is as unique as you are. Boise State offers many opportunities for involvement through a wide range of events and activities, clubs and organizations, and other programs. Use this site to find out more about the opportunities the Student Involvement and Leadership Center offers. <https://www.boisestate.edu/getinvolved/>

Join the Biology Club: Educational Outreach, Volunteer Work, Recreational Activities, Professional Development and more! <https://orgsync.com/40754/chapter>

Getting the Most from your Biology Degree

Internships

Each year hundreds of Boise State students participate in internships with local, regional, and national organizations. You can even travel abroad. You may have an internship experience with a large international company, a small start-up, a state or federal agency, or a nonprofit organization. Internships can vary; they can be paid or unpaid, for credit or not-for-credit, part-time or full-time. In recent years our biology students have worked with more than 70 community partners to complete a variety of internships. We highly encourage our biology students to find an internship experience. You may add up to four internship or independent study credits to your degree requirements. <https://www.boisestate.edu/career/gain-experience/>

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Explore the biology department website - <https://biology.boisestate.edu/> to see the variety of faculty research, research centers, special collections, and other opportunities for undergraduate students to get involved in research. We have undergraduate students working in every research lab in our department! Those students play an important role in our research effort as well as learning valuable field and laboratory techniques.

[Vertically Integrated Projects](#)

Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) are project-based learning opportunities for students to work alongside faculty as they pursue ambitious research, industry, and community endeavors. Multi-semester participation is encouraged, and students can enroll in 1-2 credits at the 200, 400, and 500 levels. Build skills, networks, mentorships and new horizons!

[Institute for STEM & Diversity Initiatives](#)

The Institute for STEM and Diversity Initiatives aims to build a diverse community of students, faculty, and others involved and invested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The primary goal of the Institute is to promote a culture of active inclusive excellence in STEM at Boise State University. The Institute fosters diversity in STEM through (a) advocating for and nurturing underrepresented student and faculty success inside and beyond the classroom, (b) strengthening avenues of communication and collaboration among University and external partners, and (c) conducting and catalyzing STEM educational research.

[Internship and Undergraduate Research Information 2019/20](#)