BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

College of Natural Science and Mathematics
Department of Biology and Wildlife
907-474-7671
http://www.bw.uaf.edu

B.A., B.S. Degrees

Minimum Requirements for Degrees: 120 credits

Biological sciences is an appropriate major for students interested in
the science of life. A baccalaureate degree in biology is a foundation
for careers in health, environment, science education and research, and
forms the basis for advanced study in graduate and professional degree
programs.

Biological sciences majors may pursue either a B.A. or a
B.S. degree. Because biology is an interdisciplinary science,
both programs include course work in the physical sciences and
mathematics. The B.A. requires fewer credits in natural science and
more credits in the social sciences and humanities than the B.S. degree,
which focuses more intensively on biological science. The B.S. degree
without a concentration provides the most comprehensive education in
biology. The B.S. degree with a concentration permits some degree of
specialization in one of four subdisciplines: cell and molecular biology,
physiology, biomedical science, or ecology and evolutionary biology.

Students majoring in the biological sciences must complete a capstone
research project during the junior or senior year. The goal of the capstone
experience is to apply the skills and information gained in course work to
an original research project. Students will signal their intent to complete
the capstone requirement by registering for BIOL F400. The capstone
research project itself may be completed within one of the several
designated courses or by working individually with a faculty mentor. If
the capstone project is conducted within a designated course, a passing
grade on the research project itself is required to satisfy the capstone
requirement regardless of the course grade. Biology course credit for
mentored research is available as individual study, BIOL F497. More
information about the capstone requirement is posted on the Biology and
Wildlife Department website. Students are strongly encouraged to speak
to a biology advisor well before their senior year about how they plan to
satisfy the capstone requirement.

All biological sciences majors are required to take a standardized
examination in the senior year for programmatic assessment
purposes. The score on the exam does not affect graduation and is free
to the student. The exam is taken during the required BIOL F481 course.

Degrees

• B.A., Biological Sciences (http://catalog.uaf.edu/bachelors/
bachelors-degree-programs/biological-sciences/ba/)
• B.S., Biological Sciences (without concentration) (http://
catalog.uaf.edu/bachelors/bachelors-degree-programs/biological-
sciences/bs/)
• B.S., Biological Sciences (with concentration) (http://catalog.uaf.edu/
bachelors/bachelors-degree-programs/biological-sciences/bs-
concentration/)