

BIOLOGY

Program coordinator: Edgar Benavides (edgar.benavides@yale.edu) and Thomas Loreng (thomas.loreng@yale.edu)

Yale offers four biological science majors: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (E&EB); Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry (MB&B); Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB); and Neuroscience (NSCI). The distinctions between these majors reflect the types of biological systems analysis each represents: the analysis of whole organisms, populations, and ecosystems (E&EB); the analysis of life at the molecular level using tools of chemistry and physics (MB&B); the analysis of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, genetics, neurobiology, and quantitative biology (MCDB); and the analysis of neurons, neural circuits, brains, and behavior, using a wide range of approaches (NSCI). Yale also offers the Biomedical Engineering (BENG) major for students interested in studying biological systems from the perspectives of the physical sciences and engineering.

Together, these approaches cover the vast breadth of disciplines in the biological sciences. The courses BIOL 101–104 are designed as entry points to all four programs. The prerequisites for the four majors are similar, so students need not commit to a specific major in their first year. Students who wish to major in any of the four tracks (E&EB, MB&B, MCDB, and NSCI) must complete all four modules.

For information on the major requirements, course offerings, and departmental faculty of the biological sciences programs, see Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; and Neuroscience. See also information for Biomechanical Engineering.

Courses

BIOL 101a or b, Biochemistry and Biophysics Staff

The study of life at the molecular level. Topics include the three-dimensional structures and function of large biological molecules, the human genome, and the design of antiviral drugs to treat HIV/AIDS. The first of four modules in a yearlong foundational biology sequence; meets for the first half of the term. SC o Course cr

BIOL 102a or b, Principles of Cell Biology Staff

The study of cell biology and membrane physiology. Topics include organization and functional properties of biological membranes, membrane physiology and signaling, rough endoplasmic reticulum and synthesis of membrane/secretory membrane proteins, endocytosis, the cytoskeleton, and cell division. The second of four modules in a yearlong foundational biology sequence; meets for the second half of the term. Prerequisite: BIOL 101. SC o Course cr

*** BIOL 103a or b, Genetics and Development** Staff

Foundation principles for the study of genetics and developmental biology. How genes control development and disease; Mendel's rules; examples of organ physiology. The third of four modules in a yearlong foundational biology sequence; meets for the first half of the term. Prerequisites: BIOL 101 and 102. SC o Course cr

BIOL 104a or b, Principles of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Staff

The study of evolutionary biology, animal behavior, and the history of life. Evolutionary transitions and natural selection. Adaptation at genic, chromosomal, cellular, organismal, and supra-organismal levels. Distributional and social consequences of particular suites of organismal adaptations. The fourth of four modules in a yearlong foundational biology sequence; meets for the second half of the term. Prerequisites: BIOL 101, 102, and 103. SC o Course cr