

# BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

The B.S. in Biology at Penn State Berks focuses on the understanding of species and their genetics, development, evolution, and interaction with the environment. The Biology degree program can help to prepare students for advanced training in professional and/or graduate schools. The program also prepares students to work in the pharmaceutical industry and with various governmental agencies or industries.

## Gain Marketable Experience in College

Students will have access to several career development opportunities, including undergraduate research with science faculty members, cooperative education experiences through Penn State University's Eberly College of Science, and an opportunity to complete an internship.

## Graduate Education

Students in the Biology degree program will be well prepared for graduate and professional schools, including medical, dental, optometry, pharmacy, chiropractic, physician assistant, genetic counseling, and veterinary programs.

## Academic Minors

Enhance your degree with one of the college's academic minors; the following are recommended for Biology majors.

- Business
- Communication Arts & Sciences
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Global Studies
- Information Sciences & Technology
- Natural Science
- Professional Writing
- Spanish



## Job Titles and Salaries

The following is a list of job titles and salaries, which was compiled from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. This is only a partial list to provide you examples of the kinds of jobs available to graduates with a B.S. in Biology. Some positions require additional experience.

Title	2018 Median Pay
Agriculture and Food Scientist	\$64,020
Biological Technician	\$44,500
Conservation Scientist	\$61,340
Environmental Scientist	\$71,130
Forensic Science Technician	\$58,230
Life Scientist (all others)	\$78,190
Medical/Clinical Lab Tech	\$52,330



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The Bachelor of Science in Biology degree program is designed to educate students about the world of living things through a broad-based biology curriculum. Students will take courses in biology, ecology, cell and molecular biology, and animal/plant physiology. Other required courses include general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, and calculus. The two options within the Biology degree allow students to tailor their degree to their specific interests. In addition to a strong knowledge base in biology, students will gain critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills.

Penn State Berks offers two options within the Biology degree to allow students to pursue specific career paths: the General Biology Option and the Genetics and Developmental Biology Option.

## General Biology Option

This option provides a broader biology curriculum, allowing students to study a wide variety of biological disciplines, including plant pathology, ecology, physiology, genetics, and evolutionary biology. This option helps to prepare students for careers in health-related professions, and environmental and government agencies. Students may also choose to enroll in graduate and professional school. Undergraduate research opportunities in the General Biology Option are available in the fields of evolutionary biology and population ecology, food microbiology/toxicology, and microbial ecology.

## Genetics and Developmental Biology Option

Students enrolled in the Genetics and Developmental Biology Option will follow a more focused biology curriculum, concentrating on biochemistry, genetics, and developmental biology. This option helps to prepare students for careers in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and food science industry. Students will be prepared for advanced study in medical, dental, optometry, pharmacy, chiropractic, physician assistant, genetic counseling, and veterinary programs. Research opportunities in this option include the genetics/biochemistry of bacteria, the genetic control of metabolism in *Drosophila* and the use of cell culture systems to study development and cancer.

Dr. Maureen Dunbar

Program Coordinator

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## Admission Process

Applying for degree admission to Penn State Berks is simple. Applications are available on the web at [berks.psu.edu](http://berks.psu.edu). Penn State reviews applications throughout the year. Students can expect a decision within four to six weeks after completing the process. Contact the Berks Admissions Office with your questions at 610-396-6060.

## Transfer Students

Penn State Berks welcomes students who began their education at other institutions. Contact the Berks Admissions Office with your transfer questions at 610-396-6060.

## Financial Aid

Eligibility for all financial aid is determined by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available on the web at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). Contact the financial aid coordinator at Berks or visit [psu.edu/studentaid](http://psu.edu/studentaid) for a complete description of the types of available student aid and the application process at 610-396-6070.

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