

# PATHWAYS | ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY - CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY OPTION

Bachelor of Science in Organismal Biology



COLLEGE OF  
SCIENCES &  
MATHEMATICS

## COURSE SELECTION

FRESHMAN

- Gateway courses: BIOL 1020/1021, BIOL 1030/1031, CHEM 1030/1031, CHEM 1040/1041
- Enroll in the Conservation Biology Learning Community course

SOPHOMORE

- Finish core requirements and foundation science courses
- Gateway Courses: BIOL 3000, 3030, 3060

JUNIOR

- Build breadth and depth in biology with junior year courses, focus on Organismal and Functional courses
- Plan ahead to be sure courses are offered during the semester you want to take them (long range schedules are on the COSAM website)
- In preparation for graduation next year, get a Credit Check with your COSAM academic advisor

SENIOR

- Consult with your faculty advisor to select electives that best fit your career or graduate school goals
- BIOL 4950: Senior Seminar should be taken during your senior year
- If planning on Graduate School, take GRE in Fall

## ASK FOR ASSISTANCE



Sciences Center Classroom Building, home of COSAM student advising.

- Meet with your academic advisor early to familiarize yourself with courses and prerequisites and to discuss undergraduate research opportunities

- Academic Support provides several free resources to improve performance including Study Partners, Supplemental Instruction and academic coaching (auburn.edu/academicsupport)
- Discuss research opportunities with your academic advisor.

- Meet with your faculty advisor to discuss graduate school options and the application process, and/or meet with someone in the Career Center to explore career options in Fall

- Work with the Career Center to update your CV
- Ask about internships at Natural Heritage Programs, Zoos, Botanical Gardens, etc.
- Apply early to graduate schools for the best chances at an assistantship.

## GAIN EXPERIENCE

- Seek opportunities to volunteer in a faculty research lab or with the AU Museum of Natural History
- Attend departmental research seminars

- Investigate internship opportunities, especially during the summer of Sophomore and Junior years
- Begin to pursue undergraduate research opportunities in the Department

- Credit for internships can be earned via BIOL 4920 (Internship in Biology)
- Conduct undergraduate research. Examine research funding like Biological Sciences Funds For Excellence Program, COSAM's Undergraduate Research Fellowships.
- Consider an Undergraduate Thesis

- Present research in Research Week
- Attend national or local research meetings
- Attend lab meetings in your research lab
- Prepare thesis (if in thesis option)

## GET INVOLVED



Society for Conservation Biology

- Join the AU Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)

- Get involved with Earth Day (April 22)
- Join the Auburn University Department of Biological Sciences Facebook page for information on department activities

- Continue gaining experience with SCB or other campus organizations

- If you meet the requirements, consider joining Beta Beta Beta, the National Biological Honor Society
- Investigate potential Graduate Programs
- Become an undergraduate teaching assistant



- Pursue leadership roles in student organizations in which you participate
- Look for appropriate training workshops
- Become an undergraduate teaching assistant

## CAREER PLANNING

### AUBURN UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER

303 MARY MARTIN HALL | AUBURN.EDU/CAREER

The program is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in biology. This program focuses on conservation and provides a strong preparation for further study in graduate programs or in professional schools, including medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and other allied health fields.

#### FORESTER

MINIMUM EDUCATION: B.S.

ENTRY LEVEL SALARY RANGE: \$34.2K - \$53.8K

These are just three options out of many that organismal biology majors pursue. For more career options be sure to check out "What Can I Do With a Major In..." on auburn.edu/career.

#### CONSERVATION SCIENTIST

MINIMUM EDUCATION: M.S./Ph.D.

ENTRY LEVEL SALARY RANGE: \$46.7K - \$71.8K

#### VETERINARIAN

MINIMUM EDUCATION: D.V.M.

ENTRY LEVEL SALARY RANGE: \$43.7K - \$68.4K



Mary Martin Hall, home of the Auburn University Career Center

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