

Biological Sciences Education

Department Information

- **Department Web Site:**
www.ndsu.edu/education/ (<http://www.ndsu.edu/education/>)
- **Credential Offered:**
B.S.; B.A.
- **Official Program Curriculum:**
catalog.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/biological-sciences-education/ (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/biological-sciences-education/>)

Biological sciences, in the broadest sense, is the study of life in the natural world. As such, it is a subject of great diversity and requires a background in many academic disciplines. Teaching biological sciences in middle or secondary schools requires deep knowledge of (a) science content, (b) current theories of adolescent development, and (c) current best practices in middle and secondary instruction. Accordingly, the biological sciences education major combines coursework in biology and related sciences with professional education courses on teaching and learning.

The Program

Candidates in biological sciences education are prepared to teach students in grades 5-12 with skill and confidence. The program is designed to develop science content knowledge as well as proficiency in a range of science-related skills and laboratory practices. Our professional education courses prepare teacher candidates to incorporate active learning strategies, create effective methods for assessment, and adjust instruction to accommodate diverse learners. Teacher candidates also apply their knowledge and build their teaching skills during multiple clinical experiences in local schools.

Professional Education Courses

Teacher candidates may enroll in the 300-level professional education courses before applying to be formally admitted to the School of Education (SOE). Prior to enrolling in the 400-level courses, teacher candidates must complete the application for admission to the SOE; attain a minimum of a 2.75 grade point average overall in their course work and education courses; and pass the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators test or meet minimum scores on the ACT+. Requirements for admission can be found on the School of Education website (<https://www.ndsu.edu/education/>).

STUDENT TEACHING

Student teaching (clinical practice) is the culmination of the teacher preparation program. During the clinical practice, teacher candidates apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their college courses to real-world classrooms under the supervision of experienced classroom teachers in middle or secondary schools. Faculty members from NDSU conduct regular on-site visits to support, encourage, and evaluate teacher candidates so that they gain the confidence and ability to join the teaching profession after graduation.

STUDENT ADVISEMENT

Biological sciences teacher candidates are assigned to academic advisors who work closely with them to plan their programs of study and to advise and assist them as they progress to degree completion. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor at least once every semester, as well as whenever needed.

Licensure

Upon completing this program, teacher candidates are eligible for teacher licensure in biological sciences in most states. Students who take the Praxis Subject Assessment exam for Biology will be licensed to teach biology and related secondary courses, as well as middle school sciences. Teacher candidates who choose to take the Praxis Subject Assessment exam for General Science will be licensed to teach all areas of middle school and high school science. Our program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and approved by the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB).

Career Opportunities

Science teachers are in high demand across the country, so our graduates usually obtain full-time employment in school districts shortly after graduation.

Sample Program Guide

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: This guide is not an official curriculum. This guide is a sample four-year degree plan of how students might plan this major with other degree requirements to complete their education in four years. Student plans will vary from this sample due to a variety of factors, such as, but not limited to, start year, education goals, transfer credit, and course availability. To ensure proper degree completion, enrolled students should utilize Degree Map (<https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/degreemap/>) and Schedule Planner (<https://www.ndsu.edu/onestop/degree-map-and-planning/>) in Campus Connection and consult regularly with academic advisors to ensure graduation requirements are being met.

First Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BIOL 150 & 150L		4 BIOL 151 & 151L	4
ENGL 110		3 COMM 110	3
GEOL 105 & 105L		4 ENGL 120	3
MATH 105 or 146		3-4 GEOL 106 & 106L	4
		Social & Behavioral Science Gen Ed*	3
14-15			17
Second Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BIOL 220 & 220L		4 BIOL 221 & 221L	4
CHEM 121 & 121L		4 CHEM 122 & 122L	4
EDUC 321		3 EDUC 322	3
MICR 202 & 202L		3 Humanities & Fine Arts Gen Ed*	
Humanities & Fine Arts Gen Ed*		3 Social & Behavioral Sciences Gen Ed*	3
Complete Core Academic Skills Exam or access your ACT+ scores		Apply to the School of Education	
17			14
Third Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BIOL 315 & 315L		4 BIOL 359	3
BIOL 364		3 EDUC 481	3
EDUC 451		3 EDUC 486	3
PHYS 120 & 120L		4 SOIL 217	3
Wellness Gen Ed		2 STAT 330	3
16			15
Fourth Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BIOL 370		3 EDUC 485	1
EDUC 475		2 EDUC 487	9
EDUC 482		3 EDUC 488	3
EDUC 489		3	
ENGL 324		3	
Apply for Student Teaching			
Complete PLT (grades 7-12) Exam			

Complete Subject Area Assessment Exam		
	14	13

Total Credits: 120-121

*
One of these General Education courses needs to be selected from Category D - Cultural Diversity.