

School of Life Sciences / Department of Integrative Biology

ZOOLOGY

Explore the diversity, ecology and
organismal biology of animals



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COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
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Zoology is different at Oregon State

The zoology major—the only one in the state of Oregon—is housed, along with the biology major, in the nationally ranked Department of Integrative Biology in the School of Life Sciences. Students benefit from a wealth of introductory and advanced coursework taught by world-class faculty with expertise ranging across diverse areas of ecology and evolution, organismal biology and marine biology.

Our students maximize their coursework with hands-on field and laboratory training that allows them to explore careers while honing their scientific skills. Most of our students participate in undergraduate research on campus or internships elsewhere. Students can also take advantage of abundant international experiences that match their interests and career goals.

Highlights

- Students gain a solid biological science background that is applicable across a wide variety of careers.
- Students can explore a multitude of interests related to the diversity, ecology, evolution and organismal biology of animals.
- The zoology major offers a wide array of laboratory and field course opportunities ranging from the discovery of insect species to the Northwest coastal systems.
- Major coursework in natural resources management and policy prepares students for careers with government agencies.
- Students learn from faculty who are world-renowned experts in their fields.
- Most zoology students participate in research or complete an internship to gain valuable laboratory experience.
- The flexibility of the major enables many zoology students to study abroad or complete an international internship as part of their degree.

Transformative power of research

The undergraduate experience is greatly enhanced by engaging in research. Students who participate in undergraduate research not only deepen their academic experience but they also learn job skills and may have the opportunity to interact one-on-one with faculty. Scholarships and funding are available to support individual projects.

Zoology students are actively engaged in laboratory and field research, working alongside faculty in a variety of areas relating to the diversity, ecology, evolution and organismal biology of animals. Students have been involved in a myriad of projects, such as amphibian declines in the Cascade Mountains, the disease ecology of African ungulates and discoveries of new beetle species in Oregon. Students may apply for departmental research credits that count toward requirements for their major.

Student success

Zoology Professional Development courses help students acquire professional skills, explore different careers and benefit from experiential learning opportunities to help them meet their academic and career goals.

Professional advisors help students make decisions that support their goals and abilities and guide their academic progress. Advisors can be tremendously helpful in interpreting and explaining university policies and procedures to keep students on track for graduation. Students can also consult with advisors to explore career options.

For current course requirements, refer to the OSU General Catalog online (catalog.oregonstate.edu).



IB Club students observe a spotted owl on a field trip

Sample curriculum

YEARS ONE & TWO

Chemistry
Calculus
Principles of Biology
Organic Chemistry
Introduction to Statistical Methods
Professional Development I & II

YEAR THREE & FOUR

Invertebrate Biology
Vertebrate Biology
Ecology
Genetics
Cell and Molecular Biology
Evolution
Environmental Physiology
Statistics
Electives in Writing Intensive Course;
Organismal Biology; Ecology, Evolution & Conservation; Natural Resources, Management and Policy and others
Research, study abroad or international internship

Recent graduates work as:

- Museum curators
- Nature center education specialists
- Federal wildlife biologists
- Policy analysts for non-governmental organizations
- Environmental consultants
- Laboratory technicians
- Wildlife rehabilitators
- Biological illustrators
- Zookeepers

What can you do with a degree in Zoology?

Zoology students gain a deep understanding and knowledge of animal life and apply it in laboratory and fieldwork. They land careers in environmental consulting, government agencies, museum curation, animal care, public policy and biological fieldwork.

Graduates are career ready

Zoology students gain valuable knowledge and skills to excel in their careers. They acquire technical skills in hands-on field and laboratory experiences coupled with courses emphasizing written and oral communication and collaborative skills. After completing our comprehensive biological science core curriculum, students can pursue individual interests through electives in areas such as organismal biology, ecology and evolution, natural resource management and policy among others.

Our students engage in meaningful scientific inquiry and professional activities as they prepare to become the next generation of leaders in science. Students are trained for a variety of life science careers. To cultivate a global perspective and broad thinking, zoology majors can participate in an education abroad program in areas ranging from cheetah conservation internships in Africa to tropical rainforest studies in Australia.



The Robert T. Mason snake laboratory



Invertebrate zoology lab