

Biology

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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 1010–1040 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.

Credit/D/Fail No course taken Credit/D/Fail may be applied toward the requirements of the biological sciences majors listed above, except with permission of the DUS.