Life Itself: Studied, Computed, Engineered

Explore the Organic Universe from DNA Strands to Global Systems

An undergraduate degree in life sciences at RIT prepares you to become a professional researcher, analyst, or technician. When you graduate, you will be ready to work with many different species of living organisms from the molecular to the environmental scale.

Leading graduate schools know us by our reputation for producing students who are experienced, knowledgeable, and ready to work. Some choose Ph.D. programs in biology, while others enter programs in biotechnology, pharmacology, or medicine.

The cooperative education experience sets RIT apart. Many companies partner with RIT to offer practical, career-focused opportunities that allow students to test the waters in a possible career. Although only required for bioinformatics majors, all students are encouraged to do co-op.

Uncommon Programs
Traditional biology stands alongside specialized programs such as bioinformatics, and biotechnology + molecular bioscience. The environmental science degree blends several disciplines from across the university.

Hands-On Experience
From day one, our courses present biology as it is practiced by career biologists. Employers and graduate school mentors report that our students can walk into a laboratory and start working with little or no training because of their experience.

Research Right Away
You needn’t wait for graduate school. Our Research Scholars Program is designed for students who want intensive research experience. Students write proposals, provide regular progress reports, present at a seminar, and publish a final report. Many of these reports appear in peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Flexible Options
Our majors can provide you with broad training as a biologist or more specialized fields like genetic engineering or molecular medicine. Environmental science features extensive field experiences, while bioinformatics marries biology with computer science. Our degrees complement other science majors such as physics, chemistry, math, or imaging science.

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PROGRAMS
DEGREES AND OTHER OPTIONS

Bachelor of Science
BIOINFORMATICS
In laboratory exercises and assignments, students learn to sequence DNA and use computer programs to analyze those sequences and predict molecular models.

BIOLOGY
Hands-on laboratory and field experience is emphasized. Scientific knowledge is based on research, and students are encouraged to undertake research projects in the college’s laboratories.

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BIO SCIENC E
Prepares students for work or advanced study in the field of biotechnology, the use of living systems to develop or make useful products that are beneficial to animals—particularly humans.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
An interdisciplinary degree with a strong foundation in biology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, and geographic information systems.

Bachelor of Science + Master of Science
THE BS/MS OPTIONS
The Bioinformatics and Environmental Science programs each offer an option to combine undergraduate and graduate study to allow students to finish with both degrees in as few as five years.

Minors
BIOINFORMATICS ANALYSIS
BIOLOGY: CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR
BIOLOGY: ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION
ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
A supplement to a major course of study to allow students to broaden their educational experience and diversify their skills.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Confocal Microscopy Lab
The school’s Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope offers high-contrast, high-resolution images of cellular structures. The laboratory promotes multidisciplinary collaborations between faculty, graduate students and undergraduates.

Galápagos Expedition
A small class travels to the Galápagos Islands each year to see the unique ecosystem that inspired Charles Darwin to formulate his theory of evolution. Students explore the ecology, geology, history, and modern culture.

Community Garden
The school works with the RIT Better Me wellness program to maintain RIT’s community garden. Anyone at RIT is welcome to tend their own plot. Surplus produce is shared with a local food bank.

Zoo Internship
RIT and the Seneca Park Zoo have developed an internship for qualified students that takes place each fall semester. The internship includes cleaning and maintaining the animal areas, diet preparation, design of enrichment activities and exhibit improvements, observation of behavioral activity, and weekly lecture/discussion forums.

Clubs and Organizations
Groups such as the Biotechnology and Pre-Veterinarian clubs help students interested in those fields learn more about coursework, internships, research opportunities, graduate school preparation, and potential careers.

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