ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CONCENTRATION - INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MAJOR

Program Co-Director: Dr. Mark Bulmer
Science Complex 4150A
Phone: 410-704-4065
Email: mbulmer@towson.edu

Program Co-Director: Mr. Mark Hendricks
Liberal Arts 2106
Phone: 410-704-8019
Email: mhendricks@towson.edu

The Program

The study of animal behavior has received an increasing amount of attention from the public because of the emphasis placed by zoological parks on behavioral biology and the large number of presentations in the media regarding animal behavior and sociobiology.

The Animal Behavior Concentration is designed to offer a solid foundation in the diverse approaches used to study behavioral biology. The program uses a carefully selected combination of courses in biology and psychology to achieve this goal. In addition, students are required to complete either an independent research project or an internship in order to apply their knowledge in an intensive research experience.

Students who complete the program may be qualified for positions at zoological parks, aquariums and nature centers. In addition, they will have the necessary technical knowledge to pursue a career in freelance writing about animal behavior. However, students who are considering attending graduate school will need to complete additional courses in either biology or psychology. Most of the students currently enrolled in the program are also majoring in either Biology or Psychology.

Students who are considering the Animal Behavior Concentration must meet with one of the program coordinators before declaring Interdisciplinary Studies as a major. Students who are also majoring or minoring in Psychology or Biology should contact the respective co-coordinator. Mark Bulmer (Biological Sciences), Paul Pistell (Psychology).

Requirements

Requirements for the Concentration

The Animal Behavior Concentration requires students to complete 45 units. Students should discuss elective course selections with their adviser.

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
BIOL 200 & 200L	BIOLOGY I: INTRODUCTION TO CELLULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS [LECTURE] and BIOLOGY I: INTRODUCTION TO CELLULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS [LAB]	4
BIOL 206 & 206L	BIOLOGY II: INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION [LECTURE] and BIOLOGY II: INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION [LAB]	4
BIOL 207	GENERAL ZOOLOGY	4
BIOL 371	ANIMAL BEHAVIOR	4
PSYC 101	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 212	BEHAVIORAL STATISTICS	4
PSYC 314	RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY	3-4
or BIOL 381	WRITING IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	
PSYC 460	ETHOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY	3
Select one of the following:		3
BIOL 491	ELECTIVE IN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH	
BIOL 493	INTERNSHIP IN BIOLOGY	
IDIS 495	INTERNSHIP IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES	
PSYC 391	DIRECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY	
Biology Electives		
Select two of the following:		6-8
BIOL 304	NATURAL HISTORY INTERPRETATION AND PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	
BIOL 306	HUMAN ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY	
BIOL 309	GENETICS	
BIOL 310	CONSERVATION BIOLOGY	
BIOL 325	ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY	
BIOL 334	HUMANS, SCIENCE AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY	
BIOL 347	MARINE BIOLOGY	
BIOL 353	INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY	
BIOL 367	ENDOCRINOLOGY	
BIOL 402	GENERAL ECOLOGY	
BIOL 413	EVOLUTION	
BIOL 444	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	
BIOL 446	TROPICAL ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION	
BIOL 455	FISH BIOLOGY	
BIOL 456	ORNITHOLOGY	
BIOL 458	MAMMALOGY	
BIOL 461	ENTOMOLOGY	
BIOL 467	HERPETOLOGY	
BIOL 472	ORGANISMAL FORM AND FUNCTION LABORATORY	
BIOL 481	DIRECTED READINGS BIOLOGY Must be taken for a minimum of 3 units	
Psychology Electives		
Select two of the following:		6
PSYC 305	PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING	
PSYC 309	PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY	
PSYC 315	MOTIVATION	
PSYC 317	SENSATION AND PERCEPTION	
PSYC 447	PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER	

PSYC 470	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY Must be taken for 3 units and must be a topic related to Animal Behavior approved by the program director.	
PSYC 486	ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN	
Total Units		**44-47**

Four-Year Plan of Study

Sample Four-Year Plan

The selected course sequence below is an example of the simplest path to degree completion. Based on course schedules, student needs, and student choice, individual plans may vary. Students should consult with their adviser to make the most appropriate elective choices and to ensure that they have completed the required number of units (120) to graduate.

First Year

Term 1	Units	Term 2	Units
BIOL 200 & 200L (Core 7)	4	BIOL 206 & 206L (Core 8)	4
MATH 115 (Suggested Core 3)	3	PSYC 285 (or 201, 203, 205, 225 or 261, taken as a prerequisite for PSYC 460)	3
PSYC 101 (Core 6)	3	Core 2 (or Core 1)	3
Core 1 (or Core 2)	3	Core 4	3
Elective	3	Core 5	3
	16		**16**

Second Year

Term 1	Units	Term 2	Units
BIOL 207	4	PSYC 460	3
PSYC 212	4	Core 11	3
WMST 231 (Suggested Core 13)	3	Core 12	3
Core 10	3	Core 14	3
		Elective	3
	14		**15**

Third Year

Term 1	Units	Term 2	Units
PSYC 314 or BIOL 381 (either satisfies Core 9)	3	BIOL 371	4
Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
	15		**16**

Fourth Year

Term 1	Units	Term 2	Units
BIOL 491, 493, IDIS 495, or PSYC 391	3	BIOL Elective	3
PSYC Elective	3	BIOL Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective if needed[1]	1
	15		**13**

Total Units 120

[1] This elective is optional and only necessary if the student is not on target to earn 120 units by the end of their final term.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students possess the ability to integrate knowledge and modes of thinking across two or more disciplines.
2. Students communicate effectively in the presentation of interdisciplinary materials through various modes of transmission.
3. Students conduct, analyze and apply research from two or more disciplines or through interdisciplinary research.