

# Fall 2024 Undergraduate Program Director (UPD) Report

Aleena Choudhry - 11/16/2024 5:49:59 PM -05:00

## Received

Date:

By:

Comment:

## Instructions

This is a form for SEBS Governing Council major representatives. The purpose of this form is to encourage student engagement with faculty/department representatives and to identify academic issues that may be addressed by the council.

1. Talk to students in your major, ask around if there are any current academic issues (ex: class conflicts within the major, issues with professors or department, lack of resources).
2. Look at Degree Navigator, write down the course requirements
3. Formulate a list of things you would like to know about the program (corporate connections with the university, current research projects, opportunities for students to get involved, recent changes to the program)
4. Email Undergraduate Program Director and Arrange Appointment
5. Fill out this form and submit by 11:59pm on November 17th, 2024.

n/a

## General Information

Your Name

Aleena Choudhry

Your Email

ac2885@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

Represented Major

Biological Sciences

Date of Meeting with UPD

11/13/2024

Class Year

2028

UPD Name

Martha Haviland

UPD Email

haviland@biology.rutgers.edu

Major/Departmental Website Link (if applicable)

<https://biology.rutgers.edu>

## Major Information

Major Options -- What options are offered within the major? How do they differ?

They have a new DN Program that gives students the option, depending on their career plans, to substitute Organic Chemistry II with another course. This course would be a 3 credit or more, 300-400 level LSE or alternative course that must be approved by a Bio advisor before you can take it. Students can also choose whether they would prefer to take calculus II or statistics after completing a required calculus course. 01:160:311 can also be substituted with both 01:160:313+314 (Offered Summer only). These substitutions allow for students to choose which classes better suit their desired pathway while also finishing up the requirements that the major has.

Total Number of Students within the Major (estimate if unknown from UPD)

About 1000 Students (including undeclared) and around 450 between SAS and SEBS graduate

## Goals within the Major -- What are expectations of students post-graduation?

Most of the biological sciences major students pursue careers in the health care field, attend medical school post-graduation. There are students who become PAs and students who may not go into the health care field, like students going to law school. They also like to see our students working in different industries like pharmaceutical companies with the education they gather from Rutgers. No matter what professional school, industry, or career the students decide to pursue, they hope that students can still utilize the foundation they built and the critical thinking skills they obtained at Rutgers to reach their goal. The objective of this major is to empower students to research and learn more about the sciences and implement their education and obtained skills in the real world.

## List Upper-Level major courses -- What is the goal of each course?

Some examples of upper-level courses that are open to students in biological sciences include elective courses like immunology and introduction to cancer. The main goals of these courses are to develop skills needed to produce and consume information related to the sciences, gain a better understanding of the importance of research, and gain experience necessary to pursue a career in the medical field in the future. These courses are designed for students who have past experience with science courses and have the knowledge needed for these upper-level courses. This basically means that most these courses have pre-reqs that must be fulfilled for students to have a good foundation needed for these courses.

## Student Issues

### Are there concerns with classes within the major? Are there any suggestions for solutions to these concerns?

There are no serious concerns with classes within this major. However, many students have been wondering: How can I choose the right courses to prepare myself for professional school when there are so many options? Are there any mock schedules that I could reference for next semester? The director says that the recommended credits per semester are 9 credits. It is encouraged that students forge their own path, as they'll have the ability to explore and find your own routine. Advisors and mentors are supposed to help you realize what you should take and when. Mock schedules are also on the biology website for review and include the general requirements and sciences needed based on the major. It is recommended that students find their own pace as it may be better to go slower and work harder, than rush and have to retake courses.

### From the perspective of the UPD or other major faculty members, what can currently be improved upon in the major or department? Are there any suggestions for solutions to these issues?

The director would like to introduce open houses as a way to allow students to gain a better understanding of the major and possibly restart the original bio club for students that used to run in the past, but it depends on the way the faculty can manage it as every student has different interests that they would like to implement into the club, however the director is open to having it again if possible and if there is a good way to maintain it. They also recently started keeping track of past alumni, however scheduling and planning an event with them is not yet possible, but in the future if possible, they may work with career services to bring back alumni that will share their experiences.

### Are there any Visitor Events/Talks/Seminars/etc. going on within the major?

The only event related to the biological sciences major was the SAS (and SEBS) major and minor fair that occurred on Wednesday, October 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Livingston Student Center. So far there are no other events planned, however the director hopes to look into more types of events like open houses and major/minor presentations.

### Suggestions for students in this major (ex: organizations to join, news to pay attention to)

Students should pay attention to news in regards to new lab based courses, internship Courses like SPIN and internship for the life sciences, and company research and clinical research. It's a great way to get credit for Rutgers Courses while giving hands-on-learning experience. The director also encourages students to look into and participate in summer research programs like Arresty. They also hope that students look into different experiential-based learning opportunities as you need to complete 3 credits based on your career goals and there are many options that fulfill this requirement or another requirement within the biological sciences major. Some options for research and experiential courses include Honors in biology, research in biology, and joint-programs like BA/MD. Also using Handshake is suggested to connect with outside employers looking for Rutgers students and finding new research opportunities.

### Changes within the major for the upcoming year

There is a new experimental biology class offered to students within the biological sciences major and a new DN Program in which students have an option depending on their career plans to substitute Organic Chemistry II with another course.

### Any other suggestions, comments, concerns?

The director is interested in collaborating with the SEBS Governing Council Academic Affair Committee's Major Slides and checking to make sure that the information is up-to-date and accurate alongside Dr. Anne Carr-Schmid (the Director of Advising).