

# Biology

## Program Overview

Biology is the study of life in all its variety and richness. It includes many aspects of your everyday experiences: your relationships with the environment, the foods you consume, the way your body works. In fact, functioning in the present world without biological knowledge is a distinct handicap, since biological advances are at the forefront of social change. When you study biology at Langara, you will examine all aspects of living things: from the molecules that make up your cells to entire ecosystems. You will get an excellent grounding in a broad range of biology topics. You will also be able to choose courses in numerous specialties, such as ecology, microbiology, genetics, as you focus more closely on your personal interests and career goals.

The [Langara Biology Department](#) has a firm commitment to providing the practical aspects of a science education. All our university-transfer Biology courses include 2 or 3 hours of lab or fieldwork per week. We have five well-equipped lab rooms, including a dedicated Microbiology laboratory. Our excellent team of lab demonstrators has a broad range of biology expertise and is available to assist students in the labs and during office hours. Also, a study space for second year students is available in the Biology lab area for biology students to work independently on assignments and projects throughout the term.

## Self-Study

Biology launched its program review in academic year 2024/25 with a Self-Study. The primary Self-Study writer was Kimberly Hruska, Assistant Department Chair of Biology. Additional support was provided by:

- Melisa Hamilton (Department Chair, Biology)
- David Anderson (Dean, Faculty of Science)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Academic Excellence)
- Elise Ng (Department Assistant, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Integrated Planning and Accountability analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Integrated Planning and Accountability-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey

The Self-Study was completed in October 2024.

## External Review

Biology's external review took place on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Jamie McKee-Scott, Instructor, Computer Science, Langara College (External Review Chair)
- Erin Barley, Senior Lecturer and Associate Chair of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University
- Sarah Goomeshi-Nobary, Biology Instructor, Columbia College

### Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Biology created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Student Recruitment
- Goal 2: Credential and Curriculum Development
- Goal 3: Course Delivery
- Goal 4: Student Support, Engagement, and Success
- Goal 5: Instructional Supports

### Examples of Post-Review Successes

Forthcoming.