

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CONCENTRATION - INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MAJOR

Program Director: Dr. Mark Bulmer
Smith Hall 251
Phone: 410-704-4065
Email: mbulmer@towson.edu (mbulmer@towson.edu)

Program Director: Dr. Paul Pistell
Liberal Arts 2124
Phone: 410-704-3483
Email: ppistell@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 for the Concentration

The Animal Behavior Concentration requires students to complete 45 units with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher. If 45 units have not been reached following completion of the required courses, the additional course or courses must be taken from the biology or psychology electives list (see below).

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
BIOL 120 & 120L or BIOL 201	PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY [LECTURE] and PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY [LAB]	4
BIOL 202 or BIOL 413	INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION EVOLUTION	4
BIOL 207	GENERAL ZOOLOGY	4

BIOL 371	ANIMAL BEHAVIOR	4
PSYC 101	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 212	BEHAVIORAL STATISTICS	4
PSYC 314 or BIOL 381	RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY WRITING IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	3-4
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 a minimum of two of the following: ¹		5-8
BIOL 353	INVERT ZOOLOGY	
BIOL 402	GENERAL ECOLOGY	
BIOL 444	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	
BIOL 456	ORNITHOLOGY	
BIOL 458	MAMMALOLOGY	
BIOL 461	ENTOMOLOGY	
BIOL 467	HERPETOLOGY	
BIOL 481	DIR READ:BIOL	

Psychology Electives

Select a minimum of two of the following: ¹		4-6
PSYC 305	PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING	
PSYC 309	PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY	
PSYC 315	MOTIVATION	
PSYC 317	SENSATION AND PERCEPTION	
PSYC 341	ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 381	READINGS IN PSYCHOLOGY ²	
PSYC 447	SEX DIFFERENCES: PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES	
PSYC 465	PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 486	ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN	
PSYC 470	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY ¹	

Total Units 41-47

¹ Students should consult this catalog for course prerequisites and discuss all course selections with their advisers.

² Must be approved by coordinator.

Suggested Four-Year Plan

Based on course availability and student needs and preferences, the selected sequences will probably vary from those presented below. Students should consult with their adviser to make the most appropriate elective choices.

First Year		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
Core 1 (or Core 2)	3 Core 2 (or Core 1)	3
Core 14	3 Core 4	3
MATH 115 (Suggested Core 3)	3 Core 12	3
PSYC 101 (Core 6)	3 Elective	3

Choose one of the following: 4 Choose one of the following: 3-4

BIOL 120 & 120L (Core 7)	BIOL 202 (Core 8)	
BIOL 201	BIOL 413	
	16	15-16

Second Year

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
BIOL 207	4 Core 5	3
Core 11	3 Core 9	3
Core 13	3 Core 10	3
PSYC 212	4 Elective	3
WMST 231 (Core 13)	3 PSYC 460	3
	17	15

Third Year

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
BIOL 207	4 BIOL 371	4
Core / Elective	3 PSYC Elective	3
Core / Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
PSYC 314 or BIOL 381	4 Elective	3
	17	16

Fourth Year

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
BIOL 491, 493, IDIS 495, or PSYC 391	3 BIOL Elective	3
Elective	3 BIOL Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
PSYC Elective	3 Elective	3
	12	12

Total Units 120-121

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.