What Can I Do with a Major in…
ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY?

The fields of ecology and evolutionary biology involve the study of biological systems using plant, animal, and microbial organisms as models. The faculty and students in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Tulane study organisms, populations, communities, ecosystems and global systems, with a focus on tropical and subtropical environments. We emphasize conservation biology, ecosystem ecology, environmental biology, evolutionary biology, global change, tropical ecology and systematics. We prepare our students for a wide range of disciplines, from biology, environmental science and conservation to law, medicine and public health.

The majors in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology provide an understanding of the structure and functioning of plants and animals, their evolution, and their relationship to the environment. The emphasis in the Department is on integrative biology with foci on ecology and evolution. Our faculty are concerned with broad questions of comparative biology, including the mechanisms and effects of organic evolution; the interactions among plants, animals, and the environment; and the effects of human activities on the biosphere--locally and globally.

The major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology is a traditional program of study in the discipline. The major prepares students for a wide variety of careers as well as further, professional education. It offers the widest variety of options for study at the undergraduate level and later at the graduate or professional level. Students interested in pursuing advanced study in ecology and evolutionary biology, human medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry will especially want to complete this major.

related activities

Participation in an environmental concerns group; visiting nature centers, zoos or natural history museums; working part-time or as a volunteer in a greenhouse or nursery; working in a laboratory; taking nature walks; bird watching; developing hobbies or collections around leaves, butterflies, trees and flowers; reading related publications such as: *American Scientist*, *BioScience*, *Natural History*, *National Geographic*, *Science News*, *Scientific American*, *Smithsonian*, *Conservation Biology*, *Ecology*, *Ecological Applications*, *Environmental Management*, *Fisheries*, *Journal of Ecology*, *Journal of Forestry*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Limnology and Oceanography*, *Natural Areas Journal*, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

Work for a professor doing lab, library, or field work; seek out Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) through the National Science Foundation; spend a summer at a field station – check The Organization of Biological Field Stations; get a summer or part time job with a park, government agency, or nature center; get an internship – check the Environmental Careers Organization ; the Student Conservation Association matches students and volunteer opportunities with government and private agencies; get a work/study experience with any one of a number of federal natural resource agencies (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service).

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skills

- Ability to operate scientific equipment
- Good interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Gathering information, conducting research and laboratory experimentation
- Analyzing and evaluating data, writing and preparing reports
- Capacity to calculate, compute and apply formulas
- Ability to develop ideas and problem-solve
- Ability to coordinate work with others
- Ability to conduct research and organize
- Capacity to interpret technical/scientific data
- Able to learn laboratory procedures rapidly

occupations to consider

College or University Professor
Professional Scientist
Veterinarian
Physician
Lawyer (esp. Environmental Law)
Field Research Technician
Laboratory Assistant
Research Associate
Research Administrator
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Planner
Program Manager
Environmental Consultant
Docent
Park Naturalist
Wildlife Specialist
Wildlife Biologist
Forester
Natural Resource Manager
Volunteer Coordinator
Environmental Analyst
Field Ecologist
Research Coordinator
Teaching Assistant
Outdoor Educator
K-12 Teacher
Science Writer
Superintendent
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

possible employers

Agricultural Extension Services
Agricultural Products and Production
Biological Testing Companies
Biotechnology Companies
Bureau of Land Management
Colleges/Universities
Department of Agriculture
Environmental Consulting Firms
Environmental Protection Agency
Fish and Wildlife Service
Food and Drug Administration
Food Industry
Forest Services
Geological Survey
Government
Health Departments
Health-related Consumer Companies
Independent Research Laboratories
Museums
National Institutes of Health
Natural Resource Conservation
National Science Foundation
Pharmaceutical Sales and Production
Private Consulting Firms
Private Foundations
Research Institutes
Resource Protection Authorities
Schools
Theme Parks
Water Quality and Water Development Boards
Zoos and Aquaria

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TULANE CAREER CENTER

More major selections and career resources are available at hiretulane.com. If you want to discuss your major choices and selection, schedule an appointment with a Tulane Career Coach at hiretulane.com.

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professional organizations

Ecological Society of America
1707 H Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006
202-833-8773
http://www.esa.org/

American Institute of Biological Sciences
1444 I Street, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
202-628-1500
http://www.aibs.org

American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science
1200 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-326-6400
www.aaas.org

Marine Conservation Biology Institute
2122 112th Ave NE
Suite B-300
Bellevue, WA 98004
425-274-1180
http://www.mcbi.org/

Society for Developmental Biology
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-634-7815
http://www.sdbonline.org

Human Biology Association
http://www.humbio.org/

related websites

Careers in Science and Engineering: A Student Planning Guide to Graduate School and Beyond
www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/careers/

Environmental Career Opportunities
http://www.ecojobs.com/

Environmental Careers World
http://www.environmental-jobs.com/

E Jobs: Environmental Jobs and Careers
http://www.ejobs.org/

The Environmental Careers Organization
http://www.eco.org/

Science Jobs
http://www.sciencejobs.com/

USA Jobs: Government Job Listings
http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/index.asp

Medzilla
http://www.medzilla.com/

PhD's
http://www.phds.org/

Evoldir -The Evolution Directory
http://evol.mcmaster.ca/evoldir.html

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NAML - The National Association of Marine Laboratories
http://www.naml.org/

OBFS - The Organization of Biological Field Stations
http://www.obfs.org/