BIOLOGY HBSc, BA, HBA, BSc, HBSc, BED

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

Lakehead UNIVERSITY

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	FINAL YEAR	ACADEMIC SUCCESS
DEVELOP a Course Plan and Build Academic Skills	• Check out the Academic Support Zone for writing and tutoring support. • Review your program requirements in the Academic Calendar. • Familiarize yourself with your myInfo account, self help and degree audit tools. • Read through the Academic Regulations. • If you need academic accommodations, meet with our Student Accessibility Services team. • There are 4 streams of Biology, begin to think about what stream you want to go into: Animal Sciences, Biodiversity & Conservation, Plant Sciences, or Neurosciences.	• Attend Academic Skills Prep sessions. • Visit the Student Success Centre Academic Support Zone. • Meet with your Chair or Student Central Professional to discuss your academic progress and current/future courses. • Consider post-degree programs that may require specific courses or academic requirements - start to create a plan. • Make sure to check your degrees audit and the beginning and end of the year (found on myInfo). Check this anytime you add/drop courses. • If transferring to Lakehead please check the "Academic Requirements" tab. • You can declare a minor or double major, in Mathematical Sciences, Outdoor Education, or Chemistry. Check below to see what your options are. • Think about doing a thesis or special topics on any topic.	• Meet with your Chair and Student Central to ensure you have completed and are in-progress to complete all necessary degree requirements needed for graduation consideration. • Submit your Intent to Graduate. • RSVP for your convocation ceremony. • Understand application requirements, processes and deadlines for future programs of interest. • If doing a Thesis or Special Topics, ensure that you are on track to complete on time. • Take advantage of peer reviews!	**ACADEMIC SKILLS CHECKLIST** ❑ Visit the Academic Support Zone. ❑ Email Biology students advisors (Dr. Joe Carney and Dr David Law for APLS program) of the Department of Biology to ensure degree requirements are being met. ❑ Declare your intent to graduate. ❑ Develop professional contacts with faculty instructors. ❑ Enhance the value of your degree through specialization options.
CONNECT and Gain Experience with the Local and Global Community	• Register for courses that contain in-class experiential learning opportunities such as case studies, special topics, HBSc thesis and labs. • Meet the Students advisors and Chair of your Department - get to know them, and let them get to know you. • Consider joining Lakehead University Association of Biology Students to connect with peers. • Consider other clubs like the Neuroscience Society, the Research Interest Group, Lakehead University WildLife Society, or the Pre Med Society. • Ask faculty about volunteering for the department. • Internships are offered to students within the department as they become available; check out faculty's interest areas and see if they align with yours!	• Develop networks by connecting with your academic professors. • Consider a work-study job. This is a great opportunity to gain experience, as well as assist in the cost of your education. • If doing a Thesis or Special Topics, start planning early and speak to peers in your department. • Speak to faculty to see if there are any research opportunities you can participate in. • Start attending conferences and seminars in your chosen concentration to network.	• Consider working on applied research, such as a thesis project. • Connect to the local community through attending courses that involve case studies. • Join different networking platforms such as Lakehead Connect. • Communicate interest in career-related opportunities with your professor. • Get involved in case competitions. • Consider a leadership role in a student club or organization. • Participate in Research and Innovation Week. • You can participate as an undergrad in conferences to further networking within your field of choice.	**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CHECKLIST** ❑ (Co-op) ❑ Work Integrated Learning @ Lakehead (WIL@Lakehead) ❑ Internships ❑ Research Assistantships ❑ Case Competitions ❑ Student clubs and organizations ❑ Participate in Research and Innovation week poster presentations. ❑ Talk to a Career Advisor about starting your Co-Curricular Record! ❑ Consider taking an Informational Interview. ❑ Looking to add to your resume and gain essential soft skills? Complete online certificates.

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CAREER INFORMATION

Lakehead UNIVERSITY

PREPARE
for Postgraduation or Career

FIRST YEAR

- Visit the Career Zone to find out about the career services offered.
- Discuss bursary and award opportunities with Student Central.
- Check out the job bank at mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca to learn about summer job and on-campus opportunities in your program.
- Consider applying for OSAP/Provincial Loan funding.
- Meet with a Student Central Professional to discuss financial management, and funding resources.
- Meet with your Chair of Student Central Professional to discuss your academic progress, and current/future courses.

MIDDLE YEARS

- Start connecting with employers through on campus recruitment events, such as career fairs and employer visits.
- Join Lakehead Connect to make connections with alumni in the industry.
- Consider taking the Strong Interest Inventory Assessment to learn about career options.
- Develop relationships with faculty. Future references can be important.
- As a Biology student you will have access to the Lakehead University Instrumentation Lab- take advantage and conduct your own research.
- Participate in field school.
- Start looking into graduate school or into possible job opportunities to help fine tune your plans for upcoming graduation next year!

FINAL YEAR

- Build career readiness skills by attending resume, job search and interview skills workshops in the Career Zone.
- Attend the Career and Job Fair/Career and Summer Job Fairs to network with employers.
- Consider and discuss graduate school options with your faculty.
- Finish strong with your final year – in many cases, grad programs only look at your last year or two of grades.
- Understand the terms and conditions of your provincial funding to understand the repayment requirements.
- Speak to Alumni in your department to see what their next steps were when approaching graduation.
- Talk to faculty about your options for graduate school.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

- ❑ Apply for job opportunities in your field.
- ❑ Create a Linkedin account.
- ❑ Network with employers on and off campus.
- ❑ Network during Volunteer and Career Fairs. Ensure you attend these events.
- ❑ Research employment opportunities tied to skills developed in your major.
- ❑ Consider checking out Resources and Tools on the Career Zone Website, to learn more about professional development (i.e. the Strong Interest Inventory).
- ❑ Keep track of your skills and experiences for your cover letters and resumes.
- ❑ Keep track of your on-campus extracurricular activities to add to your Co-Curricular Record (found on mySuccess).

What skills do employers want?

- Research in a specific area
- Proficient in writing research proposals
- Ability to formulate and test hypotheses
- Experience with laboratory equipment
- Proficient in collecting and analyzing scientific data
- Ability to summarize research findings
- Experience in writing a thesis and technical reports
- Ability to present research findings in a seminar

What skills will I gain with this major?

- Identifying problems in specific area
- Research / quantitative skills
- Designing experiments
- Utilizing field and laboratory equipment
- Using computers for computation / simulation
- Writing research proposals
- Summarizing research findings
- Explaining complex ideas for technical and nontechnical audiences
- Reporting results and conclusions orally and in writing

What could I add to my degree?:

- Standard First Aid
- Environmental Sustainability
- Certificate in Business Information Technology Management
- Certificate in Education Studies
- Entrepreneur Certificate Program

What graduate degrees could I pursue?

- Master of Science in Biology or Biological Science
- Master of Education
- Medical School
- Master of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology
- Master of Cell and Systems Biology
- Master of Chemistry
- Master of Bioinformatics
- Bio Physics
- Animal Bioscience

What types of minors can I do?

- Mathematical Sciences
- Geography
- Computer Science
- Physics
- Outdoor Education
- Chemistry
- Anthropology
- Economics

What double degrees can I do with this major?

- Environmental Science
- Education
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Outdoor Education
- Anthropology
- Geology

What careers can I pursue?*

- Molecular Biology
- Cytotechnologist
- Medical Geneticist
- Forensic Laboratory Analyst
- Conservation Biologist
- Environmental Health Officer
- Biochemist
- Botanist
- Zoologist
- Operations Research Analyst
- Bioinformatics Specialist/Programmer

*Your career path is not limited to this list. There could be other options to explore!

What field of work are alumni working in?

- Biology Technician
- Professor
- Researcher in Federal and Provincial government departments
- Researcher in Private Research labs
- Lab and Field Assistants
- Medical Professional
- Pharmacology

What percentage of graduates are employed within 2 years after graduation?

- 100.0% of graduates from Agriculture & Biological Sciences are employed!

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE

THUNDER BAY (SC0008)
(807) 343-8018
ssc@lakeheadu.ca
Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm

ORILLIA (OR1021)
(705) 330-4010 x 2118
orillia.ssc@lakeheadu.ca
Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm

CAREER ZONE

HUNDER BAY (UC00)
(807) 343-8010 x 8264
careerzone.ssc@lakeheadu.ca
Monday - Friday | 10:00am - 4:30pm

SOCIAL MEDIA

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