PALEONTOLOGY (HBSc)

Department of Biology

Paleontology is a basic science concerned with the evolutionary history of life. Students are required to have a broad knowledge base of biological and geological knowledge. Areas of detailed knowledge will include vertebrate and invertebrate paleobiology, evolutionary biology, systematics, functional morphology, sedimentology, stratigraphy, and plate tectonics.

UTM Biology is a dynamic community. With over two dozen active research scientists, more than forty graduate students and many post-doctoral fellows doing state-of-the-art research using the latest techniques, our students will have the opportunity to learn from the best. Our undergraduate research projects and summer student placements in research labs will give students valuable, first-hand experience working in a laboratory environment.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we’ve pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using My Program Plan found at www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans

Programs of Study (POST)
• Major Program ERMAJ1004 Paleontology (Science)
• Major Program ERMAJ2364 Biology (Science)

Check out...
Why not interpret ancient geological environments on the north shore of Lake Huron? Apply to ERS325H5 (Field Camp I). Get excited about vertebrate form and function! In BIO354H5 the design and adaptive consequences of vertebrate structure are revealed.

What can I do with my degree?
The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

Careers for Graduates: Curator; Survey technician; Taxidermist; Paleontologist; Research consultant; Field technician/director; Epidemiologist; Museum technician; Primatologist; University professor; Laboratory technician; Archivist; Preservationist/restorer.

Workplaces: Government; Scientific R&D; Non-profit agencies; Conservation authorities; Zoos, aquariums, national/provincial parks; Academic medical centres/laboratories; Universities and colleges; Museums.
HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you. Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans to create your own plan using My Program Plan. Update your plan yearly.

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.

1ST YEAR

Enroll in courses BIO155H5, 153H5, CHM110H5, 120H5; MA134Y5/135Y5/137Y5, and ERS101H5/ERS111H5. Attend 1.0 credit from the second list of required first year courses in the Academic Calendar.

Choose a program of study (Subject POSH) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer Planner and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.

Start strong and get informed with utmONE and LAUNCH through the Centre for Student Engagement (CSE). Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.

2ND YEAR

Enroll in courses BIO210Y5, ERS201H5, 202A5, 203H5; ESS261H1, and STA215H5.

Consider applying for the Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses BIO299Y and BIO399Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.

3RD YEAR

Enroll in courses ERS325H5, BIO364H5, 356H5, and ESS331H1.

Throughout your undergraduate degree:
- use the Degree Explorer to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.
- see the Office of the Registrar about degree requirements and the Biology Undergraduate Advisor about program requirements.

Explore your interests. Do you want to make UTM eco-friendly? Become a Green Ambassador with the Environmental Affairs Office.

Looking to develop your leadership skills? Apply to become a LAUNCH Leader with the CSE.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

Attend 1.0 additional BIO credits. Ensure you have at least 5.0 credits at the 300/400 level, of which 1.0 must be at the 400 level.

Conduct a research project under the supervision of a faculty member through BIO481Y5. Speak to the Biology Undergraduate Advisor for advice and details.

Gain research skills by working one-on-one with graduate students and a professor through BIO481Y5. Speak to the Biology Undergraduate Advisor.

Skills are transferrable to any job regardless of where you develop them. Need to strengthen your presentation skills? Consider a role as an RGASC Facilitated Study Group Leader.

Build a professional presence on social media (e.g. LinkedIn).

Curious about grad school? Connect with a grad student through the CSE’s Grad Connect program to get the inside scoop.

Why not work abroad? Read up on worldwide employment trends and industry outlooks through GoinGlobal. Attend the Go Global Expo. See if you are eligible for International Experience Canada.

Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g. LinkedIn).

Get a global experience through our Biology Seminar Series. Every Friday during the academic year, the Department of Biology hosts an exciting seminar given by a guest speaker. Guest speakers are from Ontario, across Canada, as well as International. Topics cover every aspect of biology. All Biology students are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring your lunch!

What’s your next step after undergrad?


Considering further education? Research application requirements, prepare for admission tests (LSAT, MCAT), and research funding options (OGS, NSERC, CIHR).

Market your skills to employers. Get your resume critiqued at the CC. Attend the CC workshop Now That I’m Graduating What’s Next?

Write a strong application for further education. Attend the CC’s Mastering the Personal Statement workshop.

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.

*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.
Skills developed in Paleontology

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

Communication & interpersonal: write scientific reports; present research findings; interact professionally with a multidisciplinary team of researchers, technicians, students and professors; and literacy writing.

Research: define a problem; establish hypotheses; gather scientific data; analysis of materials; and review scientific literature.

Technical: use specialized computer programs; perform laboratory procedures; maintain laboratory equipment and instrumentation; and comply with quality control procedures.

Quantitative: analyze data for trends and apply statistical tests to data.

Critical thinking & problem-solving: logically interpret trends and results.

Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

• Erindale Biology Society (EBS)
• UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
• UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs.

Services that support you

• Accessibility Services (AS)
• Career Centre (CC)
• Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
• Experiential Education Unit (EEU)
• Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
• Indigenous Centre (IC)
• International Education Centre (IEC)
• Office of the Registrar (OR)
• Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)
• Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)
• UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)

Department of Biology

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FUTURE STUDENTS

Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The Grade 12 prerequisites for this program are Advanced Functions, Biology and Chemistry. The approximate average required for admission is low- to mid-80s. More information is available at utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook.

NOTE: During the application process, applicants will select the Life Sciences admissions category, but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

Sneak Peek

Peel back the layers of the earth in ERS202H5 – a course that takes a close look at the dynamic evolution of the surface and of the interior of the Earth.

Effective biological training involves careful study of real organisms, both living and dead. Consequently, almost all Biology courses with laboratories involve students in one or more of the following activities with animals, plants, and/or microorganisms: collecting and preserving organisms from the field; dissecting or handling preserved or euthanized specimens (or properly anaesthetized living specimens); observing and making measurements on organisms maintained under laboratory conditions approved by the Canadian Council of Animal Care.