

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 nearly 40 active research scientists, more than 100 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)

Check out...

Why not interpret ancient geological environments on the north shore of Lake Huron? Apply to ERS325H5 (Field Camp I). Get excited about Earth Science courses about minerals in ERS201H5 and ERS201H5 and ERS203H5 where you will explore the complex nature of minerals and crystals from a geological, physical and chemical perspective and will introduce the petrology of volcanic rocks, intrusive plutonic rocks, metamorphic rocks formed in the depths of mountain ranges and sedimentary rocks deposited through time.

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.



PALEONTOLOGY

MAJOR Program Plan

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.



	1 ST YEAR	2 ND YEAR
PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*	<p>Enrol in courses BIO152H5; BIO153H5; CHM110H5; CHM120H5; MAT132H5 and MAT134H5. Plus one course from: ENV100Y5 or ERS101H5 or ERS120H5 or ERS111H5</p> <p>Choose a program of study (Subject POST) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.</p> <p>Develop foundational academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a utmONE course. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.</p>	<p>Enrol in courses BIO208H5, BIO209H5, ERS201H5, ERS202H5, ERS203H5, ESS261H1 and BIO259H5.</p> <p>Consider applying for the Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses BIO299Y and BIO399Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC's PART to enhance your research skills.</p>
BUILD SKILLS	<p>Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the class room, and keep track of your accomplishments.</p> <p>Attend the Get Hired Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.</p> <p>Attend the Experiential Education Fair.</p>	<p>Use the Career & Co-Curricular Learning Network (CLNx) to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities as well as Work-Study.</p> <p>Ask your professor about volunteering in their lab.</p>
BUILD A NETWORK	<p>Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the Erindale Biology Society (EBS). Follow them @utmEBS. Go to the EBS Meet the Prof Night, or the Biology Seminar Series.</p> <p>Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.</p>	<p>Do you have a professor you want to connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don't be shy! Learn Tips On How to Approach a Professor available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU).</p>
BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET	<p>Engage with the many programs offered by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student.</p> <p>Consider joining the Canada Eh? day trips or English Language Conversation Circles to deepen your global mindset.</p> <p>First-year international students can also take advantage of THRIVE-IN, a one-day conference dedicated to helping you start your UTM journey successfully.</p>	<p>Participate in International Education Week and engage in programs like Global and Intercultural Fluency Training Series (GIFTS) to build on your leadership and communication skills in global citizenship.</p> <p>Learn about and prepare for a future UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC to strengthen and enhance your intercultural skill set, and learn about other cultures while sharing your own!</p>
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE	<p>Where should you start your career journey? The Career Centre's model can help you identify things to consider.</p> <p>Speak to the Biology Undergraduate Advisor for biology program advice and details.</p> <p>Get ready to select your Program of Study (POST) by attending the Program Selection & Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and CC.</p>	<p>Learn how your academics and career goals work together in a Career Counselling appointment.</p> <p>Explore careers through the CC's Job Shadow Program or In the Field.</p> <p>Considering further education? Attend the CC's Graduate & Professional Schools Fair. Research application requirements, prepare for admission tests (LSAT, GMAT) and research funding options (OGS, SSHRC).</p>

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

3 RD YEAR	4 TH OR FINAL YEAR
<p>Enrol in courses ERS325H5; BIO354H5; BIO356H5 and one of ERS411H5 or ERS331H1</p> <p>Throughout your undergraduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Ensure you have at least 5.0 credits at the 300/400 level, of which 1.0 must be at the 400 level.</p> <p>Conduct a research project under the supervision of a faculty member through BIO481Y5. Speak to the Biology Undergraduate Advisor for advice and details.</p> <p>Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</p>
<p>Explore your interests. Do you want to make UTM eco-friendly? Become a Sustainability Ambassador with the UTM Sustainability Office.</p> <p>Looking to develop your leadership skills? Apply to become a LAUNCH Leader with the CSE.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Consider applying for NSERC USRA or UTEA for the summer following your fourth year.</p>
<p>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g. LinkedIn).</p> <p>Curious about grad school? Connect with a grad student through the CSE's Grad Connect program to get the inside scoop.</p>	<p>Join a professional association. Check out the Paleontology Division of the Geological Association of Canada or the Canadian Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology.</p> <p>Go to the Canadian Paleontology Conference.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Engage in programs like ISTEP and THRIVE-OUT to support your transition out of the University!</p>
<p>Attend CC workshops to learn the basics of creating a resume and cover letter, preparing for an interview, and creating a strong LinkedIn profile. To register, visit the UTM Events page on CLNx. You would also find exciting networking opportunities to connect with employers, industry professionals and alumni.</p> <p>Are you ready to take the next step in preparing for further education? Get started by checking out the Pursue Learning section of My Career Centre and attending a drop-in session with a Career Counsellor for best practices for grad school preparation.</p>	<p>Attend the CC workshop, Now That I'm Graduating What's Next to learn how to develop your job search plan.</p> <p>Ready for employment? Schedule an Employment Strategist Appointment to review your documents and practice your skills. If you are still unsure about the next steps in your career journey, schedule a Career Counsellor Appointment to gain support exploring career options and establishing a career plan.</p>

Revised on: 03/06/2025

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

PALEONTOLOGY

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 full listing of clubs on campus visit the **Student Groups and Societies Directory**

Services that support you

- **Accessibility Services (AS)**
- **Career Centre (CC)**
- **Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)**
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)**
- **Experiential Education Unit (EEU)**
- **Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)**
- **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.

Student Recruitment & Admissions

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3359 Mississauga Rd
Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

905-828-5400

www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students

