

How to succeed in Biology

Continuous interaction with your advisor is essential to gain all what you came to Xavier for – both in academic and personal growth. To this end, it is **your responsibility** to understand the goals below and work toward achieving them.

Goals:

1. Accumulating the course credits required for graduation in a timely manner
2. Developing a personalized work plan to achieve your professional goals
3. Acquiring sustained experiences in diverse leadership and community service roles

To accomplish goal 1: Accumulating course credits required for graduation in a timely manner

1. Meet your advisor and receive a printed course outline with suggested semester breakdown of courses for your specific degree. Discuss any questions you may have about the courses found in that course outline with your advisor.
2. Make sure you read and understand the syllabus of every course you take. Meet with the instructor of the course well before the first assignment – ask about any parts of the syllabus that you do not understand well, especially about how to prepare for exams, quizzes, assignments, other expectations etc. that make up your grade and follow those directions well. Ask your instructor or advisor if there is help outside instructor's office hrs. Xavier provides free tutoring, peer-mentoring, discussion groups etc. for some courses. Use of such opportunities helps make good friends and helps prepare better in the course.
3. Try to teach a friend what you learned on a regular basis. Describing or explaining the subject to someone helps you identify gaps in your understanding and application of the subject.
4. Complete your course registration with advisor consultation during the early registration time specified in the academic calendar. If you received a midterm grade of D or lower in a Biology course, you must re-register for that course for the next semester irrespective of your current grade in that course. You may repeat/delete once in each of three courses max. You must have a C or above in all Biology, and other science courses with few exceptions.

To accomplish goal 2: Developing a personalized work plan to achieve your professional goals

1. Complete an Individual Development Plan available in the CURGO office in St. Joe's.
2. Look at the research page on the Biology website and the websites of other research and medical institutions in the city, go to the Xavier Center for Undergraduate Research, and talk to faculty who conduct research in the sciences to find an opportunity of research experience. Research strengthens your knowledge of Biology and increases your chances of acceptance in to graduate and professional schools or work in the field of Biological Sciences.
3. Discuss with your advisor about summer research programs and scholarships that you can apply. Use <https://harishratnayaka.com/for-students/>.

To accomplish goal 3: Acquiring sustained experiences in diverse leadership and community service roles

1. There are many teamwork and leadership development opportunities on campus. Use <http://www.xula.edu/campuslife>.
2. Find a volunteer opportunity thru <http://yrno.com/>, <https://www.volunteermatch.org/> etc.
3. Explore enrolling in a service learning course. Discuss with your advisor and the instructor of the course if the course materials and the service experience will match your professional goals.
4. Consider studying abroad to experience and learn from other countries/cultures.
<http://xula.abroadoffice.net/index.html>