

BIOLOGY, ANIMAL BEHAVIOR OPTION



Millersville University offers a B.S. in biology with an option in animal behavior. This option is designed for students who wish to specialize in the study of animal behavior, a science that considers the causes, functions, development, physiological mechanisms and evolutionary history of animal behavior. Students can select coursework that will prepare them for careers working with animals in the context of research, conservation, education, zoos and aquariums, or for graduate programs in research or veterinary medicine.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

Biology, Animal Behavior Option – This option offers comprehensive classroom instruction, laboratory training and field experience in all aspects of animal behavior, including classical and applied ethology, behavioral ecology and the physiological basis of behavior. The curriculum provides a strong foundation in biology and includes a variety of courses on the biology of vertebrate and invertebrate animals as well as animal anatomy and physiology to provide well-rounded training for our majors.

Animal Behavior option students can select courses that fit with their interests in animal behavior and support their career goals. For example, students aiming to become a veterinarian can choose courses that provide a strong foundation in animal comparative anatomy and physiology, while others can choose courses that best prepare them for careers in zoos or aquaria, in wildlife management and conservation, or research. Students in this option are advised by professors who are experts in animal behavior, biology and ecology, and who are willing and able to help their advisees follow an appropriate academic path that meets their career goals.

Students can also choose to complete a second option within the biology major, such as the Environmental Biology option, which is ideal for those interested in applying the study of behavior to the management and conservation of wild animals, or the Marine Biology option for those particularly interested in the behavior of marine animals.

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Students in the Animal Behavior option may also take advantage of the opportunity to minor in psychology, which is especially appropriate for those interested in applied ethology or experimental psychology.

OVERVIEW

The Animal Behavior option at Millersville University offers rigorous and engaging classroom instruction in a small-class setting, and opportunities to work with live animals both in the lab and in the field. The curriculum is designed to provide a solid foundation in biology and animal behavior while offering flexibility for students to choose courses that fit their own interests and aspirations. Over the course of their degree, students complete six core courses in biology (required for all biology majors), a foundational course on the Principles of Animal Behavior, a course in either Animal Physiology or the Mechanisms of Animal Behavior, a course in either Behavioral Ecology or Applied Ethology, and upper-level electives in organismal biology, animal anatomy and physiology, conservation biology, or wildlife management.

