

Choosing Between CALS and L&S for Your Biology Major

Students who declare a major in Biology at UW-Madison have the option to enroll in either the **College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS)** or the **College of Letters and Science (L&S)**. While the courses in the Biology Major are basically the same in both colleges, the academic environment and degree options can differ. The following comparison can help you decide which college is the best fit for your academic goals and interests. As your academic goals and interests change, you can work with advisors to change your college or major.

Key Differences Between CALS and L&S

Aspect	CALS	L&S
Major Courses	Nearly identical Biology Major curriculum in both colleges	Nearly identical Biology Major curriculum in both colleges
Supporting College Coursework	Emphasis on science and applied life sciences	Broad context of letters and science (natural sciences, social sciences, humanities)
Honors Program	Eligible for CALS Honors Programs	Eligible for L&S Honors Programs
Initial Advisor Assignment	Assigned a Biology Major advisor	Assigned an L&S Academic Advising Services advisor with expertise in all L&S majors; switched to a Biology Major advisor at major declaration
Declaring the Biology Major	Can declare at SOAR or when you are ready	Can declare once courses begin and when you are ready
Degree Options	Bachelor of Science (BS)	Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA)
College Size	~3,000 undergraduates within CALS	~20,000 undergraduates within L&S

Additional Resources

- Explore [CALS Resources](#)
- Explore [L&S Resources](#)