



MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS ADVISING GUIDE:

Life Science Concentration Associate in Arts

Students in the **Life Science Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences** degree program pursue interests in biological, environmental, and other life sciences while exploring other academic disciplines through the general education requirements of a liberal arts education. The program qualifies for *MassTransfer*, which guarantees credit transfer to Massachusetts state colleges and the University of Massachusetts.



Most students in the **Life Science Concentration** continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree. Students should check the requirements of the transfer institution and meet with academic, career, and transfer counselors at MCC for specific program planning. Students may pursue various careers in biology, biomedicine, environmental sciences, teaching or health-related professions.

Students should begin their Middlesex experience by taking the foundation-level courses in English and mathematics prior to, or along with, their science courses. Writing and mathematics are fundamental to every subsequent course that students experience in a Liberal Arts and Science program.



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS WITH ACADEMIC ADVISING

Throughout each semester, meet with your advisor so that he/she can guide you through a self-exploration process that will help you identify your academic and career interests.

Beginning of Semester:

___ Schedule an appointment to meet with your academic advisor during the first few weeks to discuss future plans and how a **Life Science Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences** degree can help you achieve your goals.

___ Explore your personal interests by completing Focus2, an online career assessment tool:
<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices/focus2.aspx>

Mid-Semester:

___ Schedule an appointment with academic advisor review your academic progress, Focus2 results and create an academic plan in Degree Works.

Before Semester Ends:

___ Schedule an appointment to discuss and register for the classes you will take the following semester. (early November for spring, early April for fall and summer).

___ Visit the Academic Career & Transfer Center or call 1-800-818-3434 to schedule an appointment.

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- Exploring Your Options
- Personality Inventory
- Career Path
- Transfer Path

LIFE SCIENCE CONCENTRATION PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Graduates of the program are prepared to:

- Use their scientific educational experiences to provide a solid foundation for further study of the sciences;
- Convey scientific information through written, oral, numerical or visual communication;
- Demonstrate investigative skills that underlie the scientific method;
- Gather and interpret information about the natural world;
- Evaluate and discuss societal issues impacted by science.



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WOULD I MAKE A GOOD LIFE SCIENTIST?

For every statement below that you consider to be true, give yourself 1 point. Consult the scale below the table.

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
I enjoy learning about plants or animals.		
I like watching TV shows or movies about science.		
I like to read about science in newspapers, magazines or on the web.		
I enjoyed my high school science classes.		
I like to take laboratory courses.		
I am organized and methodical.		
I like to solve problems and ask questions.		
I like to use graphs and charts.		

Ideally, potential life science students should answer “true” to all of the statements.

If your final score is five or more, then consider trying the life sciences. If your score is less than five, perhaps you should try a different program of study.



THE CAREER PATH

The **Life Sciences Concentration** provides students exposure to a traditional liberal arts and sciences curriculum while providing them an opportunity to prepare for careers in the sciences. Few fields are as broad as biology. Biologists study the life processes, behaviors, diseases, and structure of life forms and their studies range from large animals and plants to single cell organisms. Their findings help solve problems, such as plant diseases or possible extinction of some animals as well as ways to solve problems in human health and disease.

There are varying degrees, areas, and styles of research for biologists to pursue. Some biologists do basic research hoping to gain knowledge. Other biologists perform applied research using knowledge gained from their research to create new products or processes. For example, they use genetic engineering knowledge to create new types of corn that are less attractive to pests. Some biologists use complex lab instruments for their research.



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THE CAREER PATH (CONTINUED)

Typically, workers in this field:

- Often work alone while collecting and analyzing data while yet understanding the importance of working cooperatively on teams.
- Communicate daily by phone, e-mail, or in person.
- Write letters and memos weekly.
- Often work indoors in laboratories. However, wildlife and other environmental biologists do fieldwork outdoors.
- Must be very exact in their work and follow precise steps in their observations.
- Meet strict deadlines weekly.
- Often make decisions that strongly affect their coworkers.
- Can set some tasks and goals and make most decisions without talking to a supervisor.

Career Planning Activities:

- ___ Work with career advisor to create resume, cover letter and help improve your interview skills
- ___ Identify internship and volunteer opportunities in your desired field
- ___ Attend career workshops and job fairs



THE TRANSFER PATH

Most students in the life sciences concentration continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree. Students should check the requirements of transfer institutions and meet with career and academic/transfer counselors at MCC for specific program planning. This program qualifies for *MassTransfer*, which guarantees credit transfer to Massachusetts state colleges and the University of Massachusetts. Students in this concentration transfer to four year institutions as biology, environment, microbiology, Bio-chemistry, pre-med or pre-pharmacy majors.

Transfer Planning Activities:

- ___ Work with an advisor to discuss *MassTransfer*, Articulations and transfer agreements.
- ___ Visit your selected campuses in person. Every college looks good online or in a glossy photo, but you can get a better feel when you visit.
- ___ Meet with a transfer counselor to identify transfer scholarships.
- ___ Research admissions requirements and deadlines at four-year colleges and universities.

MCC ADVISING RESOURCES

Career Services:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices>

Transfer Services:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer>

MassTransfer:

<https://www.mass.edu/transfer/>

Financial Aid:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid>

Foundation Scholarships:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships>

College Board Match Maker:

http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/adv_typeofschool.jsp

You can find more information about careers and salaries at: www.bls.gov.