About Our Program. The University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) summer academic program emphasizes outdoor, experiential learning through direct observation of biota and ecological processes. We offer immersion-style 3 and 5 credit (300/400 level) courses that run for 2 or 4 weeks. Undergraduate students can earn up to 12 credits in 8 weeks. The 400-level courses are also offered for graduate credit. Courses involve field trips to relevant sites within the Flathead Basin, including Glacier National Park. Many courses include overnight camping. Begin your academic adventure in the “Crown of the Continent” by applying today!

A Legacy of Ecological Education. The first FLBS field course was offered in 1899. Courses and faculty have changed over the years, but the FLBS high-quality education mission remains consistent with founder Dr. Morton J. Elrod’s vision of sharing knowledge through field experience.

On the Shores of Flathead Lake. The FLBS campus is located on 80 shoreline acres on the east shore of Flathead Lake ~85 miles north of Missoula, Montana, USA. In this setting, you will live and study with a summer cohort of ~40 students from diverse backgrounds and locations. About 35 permanent research, education and support staff work at the Station year-round as well as post-docs, grads, interns, and a steady flow of visiting investigators from around the U.S. and abroad.

The FLBS Summer Academic Program is back! Given the dynamic situation associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, we’ve built some contingencies into the program, but FLBS is gearing up for the same great experience we’ve always offered.
Summer Courses at Flathead Lake Biological Station and Who May Apply

Courses carry undergraduate semester credits at the 300 or 400 levels and graduate credit at the 400 level. Credits earned at FLBS are transferable to degree programs at most colleges and universities and apply to University of Montana degree programs in Wildlife Biology, EVST, and Biological Sciences. Students may easily transfer credits to their home institution post session using the National Student Clearinghouse at https://studentclearinghouse.org/.

Summer courses at FLBS are physically and mentally demanding with full days comprised of field, lecture, and lab activity plus many additional hours studying and working on projects. Courses are rigorous but a fair amount of outdoor scholarly fun and camaraderie plus low student to instructor ratios result in a great learning experience.

All applicants including University of Montana students must submit an online application. Formal admission to the University of Montana (UM) is not required. Potential applicants must meet prerequisite coursework requirements to be accepted. Official OR unofficial transcripts are submitted with the application. Medical history plus proof of health insurance must be provided in order to attend. Courses are also open to professionals meeting prerequisites.

International Applicants. International students currently attending a program in the U.S. may apply in 2021 as noted below. See https://flbs.umt.edu/apps/education/ss国际eas.aspx for additional information.

You may apply as an international student if you currently reside in the United States, you are enrolled in a SEVP certified postsecondary institution program on a F-1 or J-1 nonimmigrant visa, and you will not exit and reenter the United States from now through the first day of coursework at FLBS. If you meet these criteria, you must also determine your home institution F-1/J-1 visa policies before applying to FLBS as follows: F-1 visa students should contact their home institution’s Designated School Official (DSO) about concurrent enrollment; J-1 visa students should contact the Responsible Officer of the Program Sponsor institution listed on their current DS-2019 about transferring their SEVIS record to the University of Montana.

You may not apply for 2021 as an international student if you currently reside outside of the United States, are not a U.S. citizen, or do not currently have a student nonimmigrant F-1 or J-1 U.S. visa.

How to Apply

Apply online at https://flbs.umt.edu/apps/education. Early application is important as classes often fill early.

1. Use the website to:
   • Create an application account.
   • Enter personal information, course selections, and housing preferences.
   • Complete online acknowledgement forms.
   • Attach unofficial transcript(s) for undergraduate/graduate programs attended.
   • Attach additional international student forms as prompted.
   • Pay the $50 nonrefundable application fee via online credit card transaction; international student may pay using FLBS’ online Flywire portal.

2. **EARN A $100 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** by submitting your application no later than JANUARY 15, 2021.

Summer Session Acceptance. Submitted online applications are reviewed in the order received. Applicants will be contacted within two weeks about acceptance status. Upon acceptance, a medical history form is requested and must be submitted to attend. Courses not meeting minimum enrollment by March 25, 2021 may be canceled.

The Biological Station does not discriminate in admission, the provision or application of services or programs, or in employment or housing policies on the basis of race, gender, national origin or ancestry, marital status, creed, religion, color, political ideas, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, genetic information, gender identity, or gender expression. FLBS is committed to providing an environment that is free from harassment and emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community.

Important Deadlines! Contact us at summersession@flbs.umt.edu for any inquiries about deadlines.
Financial Aid Options

Enrolled students meeting eligibility requirements and qualifying for support for the following types of
financial aid may contact us at summersession@flbs.umt.edu or call 406-871-4515 for additional information.
- Americorps (Segal Americorps Education Award)
- Montana Vocational Rehabilitation
- Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation
- For University of Montana students with Federal Financial Aid, any remaining award from the preceding
  academic year may be available to students taking 6 credits or more of FLBS summer courses.
- For degree program students at other universities (not a University of Montana student), contact your home
  institution’s Financial Aid Office about processing a Consortium Agreement with University of Montana (host
  institution) to request summer financial aid through your home institution.

Scholarships

Numerous academic scholarships are available to individuals that are accepted into the FLBS summer academic
program. A high percentage of scholarship applicants receive an award. All accepted FLBS summer students,
undergraduate or graduate, from University of Montana, other institutions, or those with other credentials that
meet eligibility requirements may apply. Undergraduate students achieving sophomore class standing at the end
of Spring 2021 and graduate students, with a G.P.A. of at least 3.0 in the general area of the life sciences, are
invited to apply.

How to Apply for a Scholarship

1. Complete a summer session application.
2. Submit a statement about why you wish to attend FLBS. Indicate which courses or research work will be
   undertaken during the summer session. Explain how participation in courses and research at FLBS are relevant
to your university curriculum or your plans for future work (see 5 for transmission options).
3. Students may optionally strengthen their scholarship application by documenting financial need by submitting a
   PDF or print copy of their FAFSA SAR for 2019–2020 or 2020–2021 (see 5 for transmission options).
4. Applicants may attach their statement and FAFSA SAR to their online application or send print copies to
   Scholarship Committee, Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana, 32125 Bio Station Lane,
   Polson, MT 59860-6815.
5. Request two letters of reference from faculty members in support of your application. Letters must be emailed
   by faculty member to summersession@flbs.umt.edu or sent to Scholarship Committee, Flathead Lake Biological
   Station, University of Montana, 32125 Bio Station Lane, Polson, MT 59860-6815

Scholarships are provided through the generosity of many donors.

Mary Elrod Ferguson Memorial
  in Honor of Dr. Morton J. Elrod
Dr. Jessie Bierman Scholarship
Eric and Tootie Myhre Scholarship
James Hunter and Colleen Shaw Dion Scholarship
Matthew Levitan Scholarship
Charles “Chuck” Levitan Scholarship
Robert Levitan Scholarship
Mark Levitan Scholarship
Sara Spero Levitan Scholarship

Dr. Robert L. Gilbertson Scholarship
Richard and Jane Solberg Scholarship
James J. Elser Scholarship
James and Wanda Hollensteiner Scholarship
Jack and Suzi Hanna Scholarship
John and Rosanne Elser Scholarship
Dr. Pamela Hallock Muller and Dr. Robert G. Muller
  Field Research Scholarship
Jack Stanford Graduate Scholarship
Summer 2021 Course Offerings - Four Week Courses

FIELD ECOLOGY, BIOE 342, 5 credits, June 21–July 16, Monday–Thursday full days plus Friday half day
Prerequisites: College-level biology, chemistry, and mathematics or equivalents; or consent of instructors. The course engages major concepts and approaches in modern ecology via immersive field experiences, hands-on sampling, and project-based learning in both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Topics range from physiological and behavioral ecology to population and community ecology to ecosystem ecology and touches on themes of disturbance, invasive species, and climate change. The course will build students’ natural history knowledge of the biota of the Rocky Mountain region while directly engaging them in active research projects of the instructors. Ecological phenomena will be examined in real time and real life. All-day and overnight trips will be conducted throughout the course, taking students into a range of aquatic and terrestrial environments near the Biological Station and the adjacent mountain areas including Glacier National Park. Students will conduct directed measurements connected to ongoing research projects of the faculty, developing technical skills as well as skills in scientific analysis and interpretation in written and oral form. Instructors – Dr. James Elser, FLBS-U of Montana flbs.umt.edu/urls/people and Dr. Diana Six, U of Montana cfc.umt.edu/personnel/details.php?id=1140

AQUATIC MICROBIAL ECOLOGY, BIOE 400, 3 credits, June 21–July 2, Monday–Friday full days
Prerequisites: One year of college-level biology, chemistry, and mathematics or consent of instructor. The course provides a conceptual foundation and hands-on field and laboratory training in modern methods in aquatic microbial ecology. Lectures, laboratories, field trips, and in-class discussions will be used to explore topics such as physiology and metabolism of aquatic microbes; methods and tools for assessing microbial diversity, biomass, and growth; and the role of microbes in bioelemental cycles. Students will gain hands-on experience with both cultivation-based approaches and cultivation-independent methods for studying environmental microorganisms. The heavy field-based emphasis is intended to provide an experiential learning environment. Instructor – Dr. Matthew Church, FLBS-U of Montana flbs.umt.edu/urls/people

CONSERVATION ECOLOGY, BIOE 440, 3 credits, July 5–16, Monday–Friday full days
Prerequisites: One semester of college-level biology and an ecology course or consent of instructor. This course will emphasize application of basic biological research to problems in conservation and management with a focus on science, human dimensions, and policy interface in three main disciplines/areas in conservation biology: Ecology, Evolution, and Human Dimension. Primary course themes are: effects of introduced species on biodiversity, population abundance and connectivity, units of conservation and the Endangered Species Act, and general organismal field ecology. Themes will be applied to case studies chosen to illustrate general principles and important issues in conservation and to facilitate discussions with professional field and conservation biologists. We will meet with professionals from government or nongovernment organizations providing a special opportunity to interactively learn by working side by side with conservation biologists, researchers, and natural resource managers from USGS, Montana FWP, US Forest Service, and the National Park Service. Instructor – Dr. Gordon Luikart, FLBS-U of Montana flbs.umt.edu/urls/people

ALPINE ECOLOGY, BIOE 416, 3 credits, July 19–July 30, Monday–Friday full days
Prerequisites: One semester of college-level biology, an ecology course, or consent of instructor. Exploration of distribution, abundance, and biotic interactions of plants and animals and their unique ecophysiological adaptations to life in the rigorous environments of high mountains above the timberline, with emphasis on the Crown of the Continent area. Students learn about distribution of plants and animals and study processes and interactions that are the foundation to ecology in alpine environments. Emphasis is placed on the processes that organize communities including drivers of global climate and complex interrelationships of biotic and abiotic interactions, including natural and human components as modifiers of system dynamics, and how those processes affect alpine systems. Field trips and data intensive class projects underscore major concepts and allow training in data collection, analysis, writing a scientific paper, presentation and interpretation by students. Instructor – Dr. Wendy Ridenour, U of Montana Western umwestern.edu/faculty/wendy-ridenour-ph-d/
STREAM ECOLOGY, BIOE 439, 3 credits, July 19–July 30, Monday–Friday full days
Prerequisites: One year of college-level biology, chemistry, and mathematics, and an ecology course or consent of instructor. Stream Ecology is the study of physical, chemical and biological processes in streams. F.-A. Forel coined limnology as the “oceanography of lakes.” Here we will do the same for streams and rivers by studying the ecology of streams rather than simply ecology in streams. This goal requires that students integrate across scientific disciplines to learn principles, concepts and methods of stream ecology in field, lecture, laboratory, and discussion settings. Daily participation, examinations, and written and oral reports of independent or group studies as directed by the professor are required. Instructor – Dr. Robert Hall, FLBS-U of Montana (flbs.umt.edu/urls/people)

LAKE ECOLOGY, BIOE 453, 3 credits, August 2–13, Monday–Friday full days
Prerequisites: One year of college-level biology, chemistry, and mathematics, and an ecology course or consent of instructor. This course examines physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of lake ecosystems; also how physical processes—circulation and stratification, nutrient loading and cycling, primary and secondary production and food web interactions, and the role of atmospheric and land use/watershed—affect water quality. This course focuses on functional relationships and productivity of plant and animal assemblages in lakes as regulated by physical, chemical and biotic processes. Fundamental concepts of ecology as they relate to the aquatic environment are emphasized. Limnological principles are presented within the context of regional and landscape spatial scales. Students learn basic and contemporary methods of study in field settings potentially including Flathead Lake, glacial lakes of Glacier National Park and Swan Valley, and nutrient rich lakes. Emphasis is directed toward experiential learning and obtaining hands-on examination and characterization of lakes that will serve the student well throughout their career. Instructor – Dr. Shawn Devlin, FLBS-U of Montana (flbs.umt.edu/urls/people)

FOREST AND FIRE ECOLOGY, BIOE 458, 3 credits, August 2–13, Monday–Friday full days
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. Introduction to aspects of population, community, landscape and ecosystem ecology, including the interactive biophysical attributes and processes of forest ecosystems. Students observe and learn about plant distributions and plant community structure, including principles of plant ecology, ecophysiology, and ecological disturbances, especially wildfire. Energy and materials transfer and feedbacks are used to describe complex interrelationships driving the dynamics of these systems, including both natural and human components as modifiers of systems dynamics. Students learn how data are collected to maximize information used to answer scientific questions. Field trips and field laboratory exercises are complemented with quantitative analysis of student-collected data, including tree demographic analysis, community composition and structural change, and analysis of net primary productivity and forest carbon stocks. Instructor – Dr. Andrew Larson, U of Montana (cfc.umt.edu/personnel/details.php?ID=1710)

Summer 2021 Course Offerings Independent Study 1 to 8 Credits

ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, BIOE 490, 1–10 Credits (CR/NCR) Independent research experience in field ecology associated generally with the various research projects at FLBS. Projects are mentored by permanent and visiting FLBS faculty. Send us a short outline of research work you would like to undertake.

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS, BIOB 499, 1–6 Credits (CR/NCR) Prerequisite: Senior standing and consent of instructor. Objective is to prepare a thesis/manuscript based on undergrad research in field ecology for presentation and/or publication. Student must give an oral presentation at the Biological Station. Student provides short outline of proposed research work.

RESEARCH IN ECOLOGY, BIOB 596, 1–8 Credits (CR/NCR) Open only to non-UM graduate students. The purpose of this independent research is to solve a specific ecological problem unrelated to thesis or dissertation as identified and examined by the student under mentorship of a Biological Station professor. Independent research includes design, analysis and reporting of ecological data. Student provides outline of proposed research work.
Fees, Housing, Check-In, Payment, and Refunds and Cancellation

Fees. Course fees for residents of Montana and nonresidents are $575 per credit. Total fees are based on credits (Table A) plus housing and meal plan (Table B). Students who submit their application and pay the $50 application fee on or before Monday, January 15, 2021, receive an Early Application Discount of $100. Health insurance is not included in fees. All summer session students are required to carry health insurance valid in Montana for emergency and routine healthcare. Medical facilities are available in nearby towns of Polson, Bigfork, and Kalispell.

Housing and Food Service. Living on the Biological Station grounds is required to allow full-time interaction between students, instructors, and the world-class research program here. There are 30 double occupancy (12’ x 14’) cabins. All cabins are heated and furnished with lights, electricity, two twin-size beds, chairs, desks, and closets. Restroom and shower facilities are located near the cabins. The G. W. Prescott Dining Hall has indoor or outdoor dining overlooking Flathead Lake. Housing and dietary preferences are selected when you apply.

Most applicants opt for cabin double occupancy at $50 per week. Single cabin occupancy is $100 per week and contingent on availability. Single room occupancy may be required due to COVID-19 precautions. If you select double occupancy and single occupancy is required at a later date, FLBS will automatically change your application to single room preference and single room rates. Roommates are assigned by gender and other preferences (e.g., nonsmoker). All housing assignments are final.

Food service rates are $450 per 2-week session. Food service includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner beginning the first day of course-work through the last day of class. Most reasonable dietary requests are filled, although due to facility and resource limitations, not all requests are accommodated. Students may opt to supplement food service meals to meet their needs and preferences.

Monday through Fridays, students are served hot meals for breakfast and dinner. Lunches are packed by each student during breakfast and consist of a variety of options each day. Weekend meals are available to students continuing to attend courses the following week. Weekend meals (B, L, and D) are packed by kitchen staff for each student with attention to dietary preferences. Individually labeled sacked meals are available by 3 PM each Friday afternoon. Menus for field trips and overnight excursions are selected by the course instructor and kitchen staff to complement the overnight camping experience. Dietary preferences are taken into account for all preplanned meals and menus.

Questions? Send email to summersession@flbs.umt.edu or call 406-872-4515.

Check In. Check-in information is provided in the student’s acceptance letter. A check-in packet is provided on day of arrival at the Elrod Building Main Office entrance.

- Check in is Sunday afternoon before first scheduled class day. For students arriving on Sunday, June 20, 2021, an evening meal is provided prior to an orientation meeting. Sunday evening meals are not provided for July 4, July 18, or August 1 arrivals; orientation meeting attendance is mandatory.
- Check out by 11:00 am on the day following your last scheduled class day.
- Pets are not allowed on Station grounds.
- As part of the University of Montana, FLBS is a tobacco-free campus.
- Campfires are not allowed on Station grounds.
- Due to the danger of forest fires, personal cooking by students is not allowed.

Summer Session Payment. Tuition, housing and meal plan fees are due in full no later than May 24, 2021. Pay by this date to guarantee enrollment in first choice courses. Late payment may result in first choice courses being reassigned to waitlist applicants. Students may make an online payment at flywire, the international funds transfer service online. Students may send a check made payable to University of Montana (drawn on a U.S. bank) to Flathead Lake Biological Station, Attn: Summer Session, 32125 Bio Station Lane, Polson, MT 59860-6815 USA.

Cancellations and Refunds. No later than Monday, May 10, 2021, cancel your online application or send an email to request cancellation to summersession@flbs.umt.edu. Fees, excluding the nonrefundable application fee, paid on or before this deadline will be refunded. Cancellations made after this deadline may result in forfeiture of all fees paid to date.

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Other Services

**FLBS Bookstore.** Textbooks and basic course supplies may be purchased at the FLBS Bookstore. See syllabi for books, supplies and gear needed for coursework. Cash, personal checks, traveler’s checks, money orders and credit cards (Discover/MasterCard/Visa) are accepted in payment for books and supplies.

**Banking and Telephone Services.** The nearest bank for cashing personal checks and ATM is 15 miles north of the Station in Bigfork. The nearest ATM is at Woods Bay (10.5 mi). Traveler’s checks or a debit/credit card offer added convenience for the duration of your stay. Cell phone service is available in this area, but coverage may be spotty.

Climate and Dress

Generally, everyone dresses casually. The last week in June can be somewhat chilly and damp. Bring a cold weather jacket and warm clothes (layers recommended). See average area temperatures below.

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<th>June</th>
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<td><strong>Average Highs</strong></td>
<td>71 °F</td>
<td>80 °F</td>
<td>78 °F</td>
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<td><strong>Average Lows</strong></td>
<td>44 °F</td>
<td>47 °F</td>
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Student Mailing Address

You will be assigned a box for mail and messages. Incoming mail, or shipped items (FEDEX, UPS, USPS) should be addressed using the following address:

Your Name
32111 Bio Station Lane
Polson, MT 59860-6815

Computers / Internet Access

Students are required to bring their own laptop to access shared server storage and software, wireless internet, and classroom printers. FLBS will work with students unable to bring a personal laptop due to financial hardship. Microsoft Office is also recommended for optimal collaboration with faculty and peers.

Items-to-Bring Checklist

- Blanket, bedsheets (twin), pillow and pillow case, alarm clock
- Towels and toiletry articles
- Proper clothing plus cap / hat
- Full rain gear is essential plus umbrella
- Hiking boots (not too stiff, and broken in)
- Hot/cold mug and water bottle (2-liters required)
- Lunch pack-up container (small divided/two small containers)
- Flashlight and headlamp, batteries
- Laundry soap and quarters for laundry (~$4 per wash & dry)
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, and insect repellent
- Daypack and backpack, sleeping bag
- Mess kit for field trips and weekends (plates, cups, storage container, eating utensils)
- Camera or binoculars (optional)
- Laptop computer
- Cell phone
- Money / ATM card
- Additional safety items may be required to participate in courses. e.g. masks; hand sanitizer bottles for field trips; packable thermometer

See checklists and all logistics info at: [https://flbs.umt.edu/apps/education/ss_logistics.aspx](https://flbs.umt.edu/apps/education/ss_logistics.aspx)
Travel Options and Rides to FLBS
Due to COVID-19 pandemic, we highly recommend checking the website for the most current travel logistics at https://flbs.umt.edu/apps/education/ss_logistics.aspx.

Driving—Many students drive their own vehicles to the Biological Station; follow this link for directions to FLBS at https://flbs.umt.edu/newflbs/about-flbs/location-directions/. If you want riders or need a ride, visit the Student Rider Board (available after you apply). Note FLBS does not mediate issues with rides arranged on the Rider Board. Students without their own vehicle will need to network with other students to get to town and/or for weekend adventures.

Flying—From out of state, the ideal way to reach FLBS for the summer session is to fly into Glacier International Airport (FCA) in Kalispell before 4 pm on Sunday before your coursework begins. You will prearrange ground transportation (taxi/shuttle) to the Biological Station. However, your circumstances may require you to seek alternate arrangements.

We strongly advise flying into Kalispell (Airport: FCA), which is ~42 miles north of FLBS. Students may find that it is cheaper to fly into Missoula (Airport: MSO) ~85 miles south of FLBS. You might save money on a flight into Missoula, but there are significant additional time and cost expenses involved in getting to FLBS from Missoula (and back).

Train—Amtrak makes a daily stop in Whitefish (~47 miles north of FLBS). The westbound train arrives late pm, while the eastbound arrives early am. However, you must then find your own ground transportation from Whitefish to FLBS. See ground transfer options below.

Ground Transfer Options by Arrival/Departure Location

**Glacier International Airport (FCA)** iflyglacier.com/
1) Find a driver on the FLBS Rider Board.
2) Car Rental iflyglacier.com/travelers/ground-transportation/
3) Shuttle/taxi (prearrange pickup with 48-hours or more advance notice)
   - Arrow Shuttle arrowshutletaxi.com/ Prearrange shuttle pickup online or call 406-300-2301. One-way fare is ~$104 plus $3 each additional person.
   - Glacier Taxi glaciertaxi.com/ Prearrange pickup and get rate information by calling 406-250-3603.
   - Search internet on keywords Kalispell Montana taxi for other services.

**Missoula International Airport (MSO)** https://flymissoula.com/
1) Find a driver on the FLBS Rider Board.
2) Car Rental https://flymissoula.com/
3) Shuttles (Prearrange pickups with 48-hours or more advance notice.)
4) Greyhound Bus – There is only 1 bus daily to Polson from where you will prearrange a taxi to take you to the Biological Station. Plan for an additional overnight stay in Missoula plus meals costs. *One-way costs are estimated* as follows:
   - Taxi from airport to Missoula Greyhound terminal or hotel: ~$20
   - Overnight stay in Missoula and meals to make bus schedule connections: ~$150
   - Prearranged taxi from Polson to FLBS, search internet using keywords Polson Montana taxi service: ~$36

**Whitefish Amtrak Train Depot** (prearrange with 48-hours or more advance notice)
1) Car rental at Amtrak Station (Hertz)
2) Prearrange Arrow Shuttle pickup (see above): $126 plus $3 each additional person.
3) Prearrange shuttle with Glacier Taxi (see above).

To guarantee a spot in your first choice courses, apply online beginning December 15, 2020!

**APPLY ONLINE** flbs.umt.edu/apps/education

Don’t wait too long...classes fill early!

**APPLY BY January 15, 2021 for a $100 discount!**