

# THE SCIENCE CONNECTION



## Welcome back to the Faculty of science!

*By : your UNB Science Peer Mentors*

Welcome back, upper-year science students, to another exciting phase of your academic journey at UNB.

As your dedicated team of science peer mentors, we hope you had a relaxing summer and are ready to dive into the challenges and opportunities that this year holds. Our team has been diligently planning events spanning the the year crafted to foster connections with your peers and professors while providing ample opportunities to delve into the depths of your degree and explore the possibilities that lie ahead.

Throughout the fall/winter semesters, the science faculty and your peer mentors will stand by you, offering support and guidance. We understand that this phase marks a transition from your time here at UNB to the exciting prospects awaiting you beyond your degree. This newsletter serves as a valuable resource to keep you informed about any new developments and changes within the science faculty for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

As you navigate through your courses, projects, and career aspirations, know that your science community is here to assist you every step of the way. Here's to a successful and fulfilling year, filled with growth, discovery, and meaningful connections. Let's make this semester one to remember!

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# YOUR SCIENCE PEER MENTORS



Andrew Kroon  
He/Him  
4th Year  
General Science



Andrew Smith  
He/him  
5th Year  
Biology



Ashley Morrisey  
She/Her  
5th Year  
Biology-Chemistry



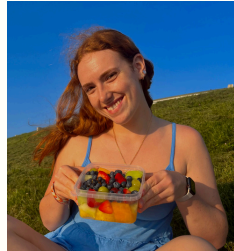
Bianca Cruz  
She/Her  
4th Year  
Biology



Caroline Vanicek  
She/Her  
4th Year  
Math-Physics



Kami Sadien  
She/Her  
3rd Year  
Biology



Kayley Gregoire  
She/Her  
3rd Year  
Biology



Lexa Lloyd  
She/Her  
3rd Year  
Biology-Chemistry



Madelynn Hamilton  
She/Her  
3rd Year  
Psychology



Megan Brennan  
She/Her  
3rd Year  
Biology-Chemistry



Mana Mahmoud Zadeh  
She/Her  
4th Year  
Biology-Chemistry



Tyler Murphy  
He/Him  
3rd Year  
Biology

**As your science peer mentors, we would like to welcome you back to your home away from home here at UNB! We are a team of upper year science students dedicated to support you as you continue and complete your journey here at UNB. We have all been in your shoes at some point in time, and we would like to assist you with resources and support to help you succeed and make the most of your stay here at UNB. We have prepared a number of events and workshops to help you connect with the science faculty and all the opportunities they have to offer, and we will be here to help you every step of the way as you progress or near the end of completing your journey here at UNB.**

**PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO ANY OF US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS! WE ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP!**

Contact us directly at: [pmentors@unb.ca](mailto:pmentors@unb.ca)

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# Navigating the Next Chapter: Grad Programs and Professional Schools

By Anajose Reyes, BSc. (Hons.)

If you're reading this perhaps you are an upper year science student wondering what the next step will be after undergrad.

Many folks came to university with a 10-year plan, but then again many of us did not, and so we had to find ourselves during our time at UNB. Let's say you do want to continue your education after undergrad; what exactly does that mean? Well, this can mean applying to graduate school like a master's programs or accelerated PhDs, or maybe a professional school like medicine or pharmacy. When picking a post-grad path, there is nothing more valuable than thoughtful planning and research into the application process. I am here to give you some helpful tips and share my own experience on navigating this next chapter...

## Choosing the Right Path

Post-grad plans should reflect your personal career goals and interests. If you're not sure what's right for you, do some research! Start by exploring different graduate and professional programs near you, or even ones on the other side of the world. For example, I knew I wanted to pursue a master's in marine biology, but I am not a huge fan of writing a thesis. So, I looked for course-based master's programs in Canada and found a good fit for me.



Once you have narrowed your search down to a few options, consider the academic and professional requirements of each option. Do you have the right courses and credits to even qualify for the program? If not, plan out a course schedule for the next year or two that will allow you to fulfill the requirements. See your academic advisor for specific advice!

## Researching Programs

Speaking of academic advisors, who better to ask about graduate or professional programs than someone who has been through it all? Ask professors with similar research interests to yours what path they took, and if they know of any programs that might interest you. Utilize university resources like career services, peer mentors, or current grad students to guide you in this process.

To throw in a personal anecdote: the program I applied to was completely unknown to me until I joined a lab group at UNB and met two grad students who had been through the program already, and highly recommended it. There are ways to make connections like these all over campus!

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## Preparing Application Materials

Many grad school and professional school applications require crafting a compelling personal statement or statement of interest. The biggest piece of advice I can give is to make sure you are truly interested in applying to the program. This is because when you are passionate about a topic or program, these statements should flow out of you effortlessly! It is really all about expressing yourself in a professional manner. If you don't know where to start, I always recommend bullet pointing down your real thoughts and transforming them into more professional goals, like "I want to study fish in this lab because I love swimming in the ocean" can turn into "my fascination with marine ecosystems, particularly the world of fish, has been a driving force throughout my academic and personal journey."

Two things that can make or break an application are your letters of recommendation and your CV (curriculum vitae). Most programs will ask for these, and they can be key to getting you where you want to be. A crucial piece of the puzzle here is to get involved on campus and talk to people. Talk to your professors, ask them questions, and get to know their research. I know, this is easier said than done, so I have some better advice for anyone who doesn't really know where to start. As an upper year student, you have the chance to take even more niche courses, so take a class with like 15 students. There you will surely get to know your peers and your prof, establishing helpful connections. Another thing to consider is that it's hard for a prof to write a letter for someone they barely remember or did not get to know at all. For this reason, check in with your profs occasionally. A simple "hello, how are you?" every once in a while, can maintain a relationship and create space to ask for help when needed.

## Timeline

Now, you may have reached the point where you are ready to apply to programs. Always keep an eye on those deadlines! Write your essays way in advance of the deadline, ask for reference letters weeks before you actually need them, and make sure you read the required application requirements thoroughly. Trust me, you don't want to look at the website one day before the application is due and realize you're missing a statement of interest (happened to me).

For programs like medical and dentistry school, be certain of when the standardized tests are taking place and when you need to start studying. Also, keep scholarship and grant application deadlines in mind if you know you will require financial aid to attend a grad or professional school.

To conclude, I encourage you to take a proactive approach toward your next academic and professional steps. Consider that you need to be well prepared to make these strides for your career. I also have to remind you that seeking guidance and support is a valuable part of the process.

Good luck,

Anajose



Anajose Reyes

UNB Science - Class of 2024  
Peer Mentor Emeritus

# Maximizing Research and Classwork: Library Research Toolkit

## What is the Toolkit?

 UNB LIBRARIES

### RESEARCH TOOLKIT



This is a self-paced, interactive course for learning the basics of library use and academic research. You can find it and enrol on D2L Brightspace! “The Toolkit introduces students to library services and the academic research process at UNB.” In other words, familiarizing yourself with the library resources available at UNB can help you efficiently complete assignments and research projects!



This module introduces key services, including course reserves and document delivery, ensuring you understand library resources in the context of your courses. It also delves into UNB WorldCat to show you the art of finding e-books and academic articles effortlessly. You will also learn to navigate Research Guides, which show discipline-specific databases and invaluable e-resources tailored to your academic needs. It can also help to strengthen your academic foundation by understanding essential research vocabulary, particularly in the peer review process. This module equips you with essential skills to enhance your research projects and excel in your classwork.



In this module explore the essentials of academic success in the research. Learn the ins and outs of the academic publication cycle, from developing ideas to publishing findings. Discover practical research tools and how to choose the most effective ones for your work. Understand academic integrity, including the basics of citing and paraphrasing. Develop strategies for shaping research topics and evaluating sources, gaining valuable skills for your academic journey.



Discover the skills of effective database exploration with this module. Learn to navigate UNB Libraries' databases adeptly, mastering the art of employing keywords, phrases, and synonyms to enhance your search precision. Uncover the power of Boolean operators to refine and focus your research queries. Explore the realm of subject headings to unlock targeted information within vast databases. Elevate your citation management game by delving into Zotero, ensuring organized and hassle-free tracking of your sources. This course empowers you with practical skills to navigate the academic landscape seamlessly.

Happy Researching!

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# Biology is now scent-free !



The Faculty of Science asks you to please refrain from wearing or using natural, artificial and/or synthetic scented personal products such as perfume, cologne, aftershave, body wash, hairspray, hand lotion while on campus. There are a number of people in the faculty with chemical sensitivities and we want to protect those of us that suffer from such exposure.

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**Thank you!**

# Parking Passes



As part of UNB's ongoing commitment to creating a modern, integrated and more sustainable UNB, we will transition from our current parking system to UNB's new HotSpot parking portal.

This change, which will take effect this September, will help us reduce waste while providing the UNB community and its visitors with a more convenient and streamlined approach to on-campus parking.

## Parking permits:

- All vehicles parked on campus must have a valid digital parking permit or session.
- Please purchase parking permits for the upcoming school year (2024-2025) through the HotSpot portal starting Aug. 26 on the website.
- All parking permits are virtual and based on the vehicle licence plate.
- Please do not add parking fee cash to your UCard wait and purchase directly through the system.

At UNB, your UCard is more than just your ID - it is your cash card, door key, gym membership and more! Check out for information on UCards. Be sure to get a physical copy of your card, you'll likely need it as identification during exams!

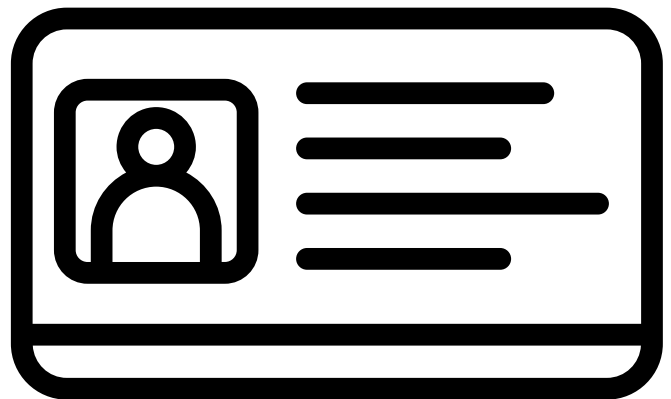
**UCARDS MOBILE:** Your UCard is available on iPhone, Apple Watch and Android phones!

All information on our new mobile app can also be found on the link:

<https://www.unb.ca/ucard/>



# U Cards





# HEY, YOU!



Check out our very own, very new...

## UNB's Science Student Playbook!

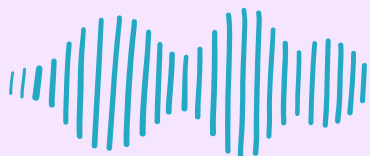


Your UNB Science Peer Mentors are thrilled to be offering our very own podcast series... UNB's Science Student playbook! This spotify podcast series will feature topics such as careers to pursue with your science degree, getting involved in research, interviews with: graduate students, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs and so much more! With a new episode released biweekly, be sure to tune in and hear about all the cool science going on at and outside of UNB!

TUNE IN VIA SPOTIFY

September Series:

- 1) Study Skills
- 2) Productivity and Wellbeing
- 3) Success in a Science Degree





# FAQS



**Q: Do I need to talk to an advisor even if i've already declared my major?**

A: Yes! It is always a good idea to chat with an academic advisor at least once a year, just to make sure you are on the right track to meet your graduation goals. If you are in your final year, and want to apply to graduate, it is imperative to reach out to your advisor to ensure you can graduate. If you still aren't sure who your advisor is check the link below:

<https://unbcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/AcademicSuccess/SitePages/Faculty-of-Science.aspx>

**Q: What is an honours project? How do I get involved in an honours project?**

A: An honours project is a thesis based on a research project taken on by an upper year student, usually in their final year. The best way to find an honours project is to find a professor whose work you are interested in and simply reach out to express your interest. Make sure you do a bit of research on who they are and their lab's research so they can see you are prepared to take on a project of your own. After that, it is up to them to decide if they have space and funding to take on an honours student.

**Q: Is it too late to add a minor/concentration/specialization?**

A: Short answer: it depends! A minor/concentration/specialization usually takes a bit of planning before reaching your final year of university. Check with your academic advisor to see if you are eligible to apply or which courses you might still need.

# FAQS



**Q: How can I get involved in leadership roles within student organizations or clubs?**

A: Talk with your Peer Mentors and Academic Advisors to learn about opportunities to get involved. You can find a list of clubs on the UNB Student Union website (<https://www.unbsu.ca/clubs-and-societies>) and email the club yourself to find out more information. Alternatively, you could also check SharePoint or find clubs and societies on Social Media (mainly Instagram)!

**Q: Where can I get advice on applying to professional and graduate schools?**

A: Lots of places! Ask your peer mentors, professors, advisors, and current graduate students. Many clubs and societies in the science faculty hold networking or information sessions where undergrads can attend and ask questions or seek advice on continuing their education post-graduation.

**Q: What steps do I need to take to apply for graduation?**

A: See your academic advisor! This seems like the answer to everything, huh? Only your academic advisor can tell you if you are eligible to apply to graduate. Once they have checked your credits they will direct you through the application process. It's simple, so don't stress too much!

## ACADEMIC RESOURCES ON CAMPUS

Even as an upper year, you have access to many resources that can help you along in your studies. Remember, you never have to do it alone!

Here we outline these campus resources and how to access them.



1

**Peer Assisted Learning (PAL):** Maybe you happen to be an upper year student in a 1st year class. Don't forget that the science faculty hosts study sessions led by peers for each of the first year courses. PAL session times and locations can be found on your D2L Brightspace, the science digital boards, at the science library and posted at the science student services office.

2

**The Math Learning Centre (MLC):** This resource offers exam reviews and drop-in sessions for specific 1st and 2nd year courses. Group or one-on-one tutoring sessions are also available. Their services are not limited to first year courses! Find out how to register or when drop-in sessions are offered: <https://www.unb.ca/fredericton/science/depts/math-stats/mlc/index.html>

3

**The Writing Centre:** Located in the Harriet Irving Library (room 410) this resource offers support for academic writing in English to all its students. They help with academic assignments, cover letters, résumés, and personal statements for scholarships and graduate school. Find out more on SharePoint under 'UNB Writing Centres'.

4

**The Science Resource Centre:** This is a student run initiative that offers drop-in tutoring in almost all science subjects. Follow @unbchemsoc on instagram to learn more!

# CONNECT

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO STAY IN THE LOOP IMPORTANT EVENTS AND UPDATES



Faculty of Science at UNB



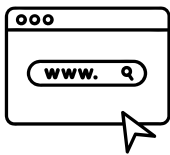
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UNB\_Science



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<https://unbcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/ScienceStudentLeadershipProgramSSLPPeerMentors>

