Faculty of Science

Dalhousie Integrated Science Program

First-year science built for curious, motivated students

Dalhousie's Integrated Science Program (DISP) immerses you in research, interdisciplinary learning, and hands-on exploration from your very first term. You'll join a close-knit cohort of ~80 students who share your passion for science.

DISP may be the right fit if you

- Want to conduct real research in your first year
- Enjoy thinking across scientific boundaries
- Are excited by evidence-based problem solving
- Enjoy collaborative learning in a small cohort
- Have a strong high-school science and math background
- Are organized, motivated, and ready for a challenge

A coordinated curriculum

Your courses are intentionally linked. Data from labs and field trips flow into Statistics. Integrated field trips, labs and classes draw from multiple sciences. You'll see how scientists work across disciplines by doing it yourself.



Coastal Field trips

Explore rocky intertidal zones, coastal dunes, fossil beds, coastal forests. Apply your field observations and skills to develop ideas for citizen science projects.



Stella Isfan, DISP 2025-26

What you will study

DISP students take **18 credit hours per term**, equivalent to one extra course per term.

You'll complete the DISP core alongside Chemistry, Math, and optional Physics.

Integrated Science Classes

- Integrated Introductory **Biology** I & II
- Integrated Introductory **Psychology** I & II
- Integrated Introductory **Statistics**
- Integrated Introductory **Geology** I
- Integrated **Science Writing & Research**
- Integrated **Science Communications & Research**
- **Ethics in Science**

Additional Required Courses

• Concepts in Chemistry I & II

• **Math:** Life Sciences Calculus OR Calculus I & II

Optional Physics

Physics must fit within the 21-credit-hour limit; many students take it in second year.

The Winter Research Project

The highlight of DISP. You'll join a small team and work in a host research lab for **10 weeks (3 hours/week)**. You'll work on a research question of importance to your supervisor, contribute to study design, collect and analyze data, and communicate your findings through: • A written research report • A team conference presentation • A scientific poster at the April Research Symposium. This experience offers students a first step into the scientific community.



Skills You'll Build

Prepare for honours degrees, interdisciplinary fields, co-op placements, and professional programs such as Medicine. Build skills in:

• Lab and field research

• Science literacy

• Team and project work

• Ethical reasoning in science

"I think the connections with similarly passionate peers were useful, particularly because they were interested in a wide range of sciences. It was this diversity of interest that made each subject come alive."



DISP Learning Community

• Cohort of ~80 students

• Mentor network

• Dedicated study room

• Peer learning and group study

• Strong connections with faculty and researchers



Connect with us: *disp.science.dal.ca, disp@dal.ca*