

Various perspectives on the bridges and barriers students face in undergraduate STEM courses

Seminar

Monday

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3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Beaupre Center,
Room 105**

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STEM fields, including chemistry, have long faced the issue of student attrition. In this talk, we present our examination of interviews conducted with undergraduate students, graduate teaching assistants, and faculty at the University of Rhode Island. These interviews are analyzed using Uri Bronfenbrenner's bioecological systems theory to identify factors that serve as either a bridge or a barrier to student success in introductory STEM courses. We will focus on student interactions within the classroom, with their instructors, or on the course format. Interviews with teaching assistants and faculty provide us with a variety of perspectives on student experiences; furthermore, our broad sample allows us to compare across disciplines. This is part of a broader study examining what factors enable or inhibit student success and persistence in STEM as a whole and in individual disciplines.