

Preludes to Mathematical Biology Education

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Unlike Sammy Hagar's dictum, "There's Only One Way to Rock," there are multiple avenues for introductory courses in mathematical biology. Approaches include emphasis on calculus-based content, statistics content, discrete-mathematics, or agent-based modeling. Each of these approaches has advantages. The choice of a particular approach depends on the needs of the student audience, which is of primary importance, as well as on the research interests of the instructor and opportunities for involvement in undergraduate research. We will discuss these different paths (at speed more leisurely than 55 mph), and provide insight into why one would chose to each of these particular approaches.