

BIOLOGY MAJOR

2018-2019 USEFUL TIPS FOR NEW STUDENTS

There are three 200 level core courses and the associated laboratories that are required of the Biology major (Ecology, Human Physiology, Cell and Molecular Biology). In your first year, you should take core courses below:

BIOLOGY COURSES FALL TERM (2018)

Ecology (BIOL 207 + 207L)

BIOLOGY SPRING TERM (2019)

Human Physiology (BIOL 220 + 220L)

Note: *CHEM 101/101L or 105/105L is a required prerequisite for BIOL 220*

REQUIRED ALLIED CHEMISTRY COURSES

The **B.A. & B.S. Biology Major require:** CHEM 101/101L and 102/102L or CHEM 105/105L (determined by placement exam.) Given that 101/105 is a prerequisite for Biology 220, we recommend that you start chemistry in your first year.

RECOMMENDED COURSE OF STUDY FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN BIOLOGY:

Fall '18

1. BIOL 207/207L:
Lecture (section 1): MWF 9:10-10:10am; lab: M or T 1:30-4:30pm
Lecture (section 2): TTh 8:50-10:20am; lab: W or Th 1:30-4:30pm
2. CHEM 101/101L: lecture: MWF 10:20-11:20am; lab M or W 1:30-4:30pm
OR
CHEM 105/105L: lecture: MWF 10:20-11:20am; lab M 1:30-4:30pm

Spring '19

1. BIOL 220/220L:
Lecture (section 1): MWF 9:10-10:10am; lab: T or W 1:30-4:30pm
Lecture (section 2): TTh 8:50-10:20am; lab: M 1:30-4:30pm
 2. CHEM 102/102L: lecture: MWF 10:20-11:20am; lab M 1:30-4:30pm
-

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What if I am NOT confident beginning with Biology and Chemistry in my first semester?*

You have two options: you could start with CHEM 101 and not Biology courses. If all goes well in the spring then take CHEM 102 and BIOL 220 in the spring. Alternatively you could take BIOL 207 in your fall semester and then begin your Chemistry sequence in your sophomore year (but please note that you will not be able to take BIOL 220 during the spring semester without the pre-requisite chemistry course). If you plan on a B.A. degree, delaying should not cause problems; however, if you plan on a B.S. degree, then it requires some juggling and makes going abroad more difficult.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *I am interested in veterinary medicine, are there special courses I need to take?*

All vet schools require 2 semesters of both organic chemistry and general physics; thus, students interested in vet school should pursue a B.S. In addition, vet schools will have different required biology courses (e.g. biochemistry, microbiology, vertebrate anatomy); thus, you will need to visit www.aavmc.org, or consult with one of the Biology faculty to plan your upper level elective courses.

Q: *I am interested in majoring in Biology and becoming an M.D. or D.O. Are there special courses I need to take for medical school?*

Students interested in medical school will need to take 2 semesters of organic chemistry and general physics; thus, students interested in med school should pursue a B.S. degree. In addition, you will need to take an introductory courses in Psychology or Sociology, an introductory course in statistics, and have a full year of English (or writing intensive courses). Math requirements vary between medical schools, so it is strongly recommended that you consult the medical schools you are interested in for specific requirements (visit www.aamc.org). See the premed advisor, for more information.

Q: *I am interested in other health professions (e.g. **physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician's assistant**), what do I need to do to be able to apply to these programs?*

For students interested in other health professions, the requirements do vary by school and program. However, all will require at least one year of chemistry, so you should begin with a core courses in biology and introductory chemistry in your first semester. Please consult specific graduate programs of interest and visit the premed advisor.

Q: *I am interested in graduate school and research, what do I need to do to be able to apply to these programs?*

The course requirements for entry into a graduate program in Biology vary widely depending upon the specific field. In general, pursuing the B.S. degree is a good idea and you should discuss research opportunities with your advisor by your junior year.

Q: *Can I go abroad and still major in Biology?*

YES you can, and we encourage you to do so! There are a number of opportunities to study abroad and take Biology courses toward the major. Specifically, we have reciprocal agreements with the **University of Limerick** (which offers many Biology and equine courses) and the **School for Field Studies** (which offers semester field programs in Costa Rica, Kenya or Tanzania, Panama, Turks & Caicos Islands, Bhutan, Australia, Peru, Patagonia, and Cambodia/Vietnam). With careful planning you can attend other non-Biology related abroad programs (e.g. London). There is also a biology J-term research course to the Caribbean you should explore (see Drs. Godard and Wilson).

Q: *Should I pursue a B.S. or B.A. degree?*

If you are pre-health, pre-vet, or interested in graduate school, you should pursue a B.S. Beyond that, the degree path depends more on your career interests.

Q: *I think I only want to MINOR in Biology. What should I do?*

You will need to take 2 of the 3 core courses as well as 3 upper level elective courses (including laboratories, if applicable) that are at the 200 level or higher.