

SAMPLE Four-Year Plan

B.S. Biology - Honors Research Emphasis

The curriculum in the biology major is somewhat flexible in that there are some required sequences and it allows students to move through other coursework in many ways. This four-year plan illustrates one possible path a student could take to complete a degree in four years. This is not an official document and is not the only way that a biology degree can be completed in four years. Current students should refer to their individual degree audit for specific graduation requirements. Courses in bold indicate major-based coursework that is completed in the first year.

First Year

Fall Semester	Units	Spring Semester	Units
English 101 Intro to College Writing and Reading	3	English 102 Intro to College Writing, Reading, Research	3
Math 142 College Algebra	4	Math 151 Trigonometry	3
Chemistry 102 General Chemistry I	5	Biology 141 Introductory Biology I	5
CORE 130 Individual and Society	3	Chemistry 104 General Chemistry II	5
Intrauniversity 104 New Student Seminar	1	PEGNRL 192 Personal Health and Fitness for Life	1
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	17

Notes: The math and English courses you will take during your first year will depend on exam scores (ACT or SAT sub-scores, or UW System placement exam). This four-year plan reflects the math and English courses most common for students in this major. All students are encouraged to provide test scores prior to attending a Warhawks SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration).

Opportunities: Joining a university-sponsored club and actively participating is strongly encouraged. Involvement in a club or activity will help you develop interpersonal skills, give you the opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills, and adds to your resume. Some clubs that may be of particular interest to students with a Biology major include: Active Minds, Gardening Club, GeoEnvi, Outdoor Adventure Club, Pre-Health Club, Pre-PA Club, Rare Afflictions Club, Students Allied for a Green Earth (SAGE), Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology Club, and Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society.

Second Year

Fall Semester	Units	Spring Semester	Units
Biology 142 Introductory Biology II	5	Biology 251 Introduction to Genetics	4
Chemistry elective	3-5	Biology 257 Introduction to Ecology	3
Communication 110 Intro to Human Communication	3	Chemistry Elective or General Education elective	2-3
CORE 140 Global or 120 Historical Perspectives	3	CORE 110 World of the Arts	3
		Biology 190 Biology Forum	1
Total Credits	14-16	Total Credits	13-14

Notes: To declare and earn the Biology Honors major, you must establish and maintain a minimum UW-Whitewater cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 and also a 3.4 GPA within the major requirements. By completing the requirements of the Biology Honors Research major, students complete the Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

Students are encouraged to start thinking about selecting a minor in the second year. Common minors include: Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Public Health, and Psychology. While these minors are common, you can choose from over 100 options that include Criminology, Spanish, Political Science, and more. While students can choose any approved minor, students in the Honors Research emphasis of the Biology major often choose to complete the chemistry minor as 16 chemistry credits are completed for the unique major requirements.



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

College of Letters
and Sciences

Department Contact Information
Upham Hall Room 320 | 262-472-1092
www.edu/cls/departments/biology

Third Year

Fall Semester	Units	Spring Semester	Units
Biology 253 Introduction to Cell Biology	4	Biology 254 Biotech Lab M. or Biology 258 Ecological Field M.	2
Biology elective	3-4	Biology 200 Writing/Bio or PWP 371 Writing/Sciences	3
Biology 303 Biostatistics or Psych 215 Basic Statistical M.	3-4	Biology elective	3-4
Minor course	3	Minor course	3
U.S. Racial/Ethnic Diversity Course (DV)	3	General Education elective	3
Total Credits	16-18	Total Credits	14-15

Opportunities: Undergraduate research is highly recommended to prepare students for the thesis in the senior year. Completing a directed research project with a faculty mentor has many benefits: it develops a student's critical thinking and writing abilities; signals to graduate school programs that a student is prepared for independent research of their own; and it can provide a student with financial support since many undergraduate research opportunities are paid.

Fourth Year

Fall Semester	Units	Spring Semester	Units
Biology 499 Biology Thesis	2	Biology 499 Biology Thesis	3
Biology elective	3-4	Biology elective (if needed)	3
Minor course	3	Minor course	3
Minor course	3	Minor course	3
CORE 390 World of Ideas	3	Electives to total 120 (if needed)	2-3
Total Credits	14	Total Credits	12-15

Notes: The first semester of the thesis project involves completion of a literature review, research design, and collecting of data. The second semester will focus on preparing the data, writing the thesis, and culminates in a defense of the thesis to a faculty committee.

Opportunities: LSINDP 399: Career Information in Letters and Sciences is a 1-credit course that focuses on: career and graduate school opportunities; identifying skills, strengths, and work values; creating effective job search materials; developing a networking strategy; and planning for a successful post-graduation transition.

Planning for Graduation: Students are encouraged to apply for graduation one full semester prior to their intended graduation date. Information about commencement is on the Registrar's Office website (<http://www.uww.edu/registrar/graduation>) and the application for graduation is available to students in the WINS Student Information System. All students must earn 120 credits to earn a bachelor's degree and all requirements in this program can be completed in fewer than 120 credits. Most students have the opportunity to choose additional courses in the fourth year to expand skills, explore interests, or try something new.

updated October 2024



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

College of Letters
and Sciences