

**SAMPLE Four-Year Plan**  
**B.S. Biology - Honors Emphasis**  
**FALL 2020 Requirements**

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 new freshman 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 Academic Advising Report for specific graduation requirements.

**First Year**

Fall Semester	Units
English 101 Intro to College Writing and Reading	3
Math 142 College Algebra	4
Gened CORE 130 Individual and Society	3
General Education elective	3
Intrauniversity 104 New Student Seminar	1
PEGNRL 192 Personal Health and Fitness for Life	1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>

Spring Semester	Units
English 102 Intro to College Writing, Reading, Research	3
Math 151 Trigonometry	3
Biology 141 Introductory Biology I	5
Chemistry 102 General Chemistry I	5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>

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

**Opportunities:** The Double Helix and HelaHawks Learning Communities are great options for first-year students interested in the biology major and math placement determines which of the two Learning Communities a student is eligible to join. Interested students can sign up through their housing application or at orientation. For more information, visit [www.uw.edu/fye/learning-community](http://www.uw.edu/fye/learning-community).

**Second Year**

Fall Semester	Units
Biology 142 Introductory Biology II	5
Chemistry 104 General Chemistry II	5
Gened CORE 140 Global or 120 Historical Perspectives	3
Communication 110 Intro to Human Communication	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>

Spring Semester	Units
Biology 251 Introduction to Genetics	4
Biology 257 Introduction to Ecology	3
Biology 190 Biology Forum	1
Math 253 Calculus and Analytic Geometry I	5
Gened CORE 110 World of the Arts	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>

**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 major, students complete the Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

**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: Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology Club, Helping Hands (pre-veterinary), Pre-Health Associates of Tomorrow (PHAT), Gardening Club, Marine Biology Society, and Students Allied for a Green Earth (SAGE).



**University of Wisconsin  
Whitewater**

*College of Letters  
and Sciences*

## Department Contact Information

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[www.edu/cis/departments/biology](http://www.edu/cis/departments/biology)

### Third Year

Fall Semester	Units	Spring Semester	Units
Biology 253 Introduction to Cell Biology	4	Biology 446 Organic Evolution	4
Biology 303 Biostatistics	4	Biology 200 Writing/Bio or English 371 Writing/Sciences	3
Bio 254 Biotechnology Laboratory Methods I	2	Chemistry Elective	3
Physics 140 (algebra) or 180 (calculus) Physics I	5	Physics 140 (algebra) or 180 (calculus) Physics II	5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>

**Notes:** There are two different options for the two-semester physics sequence: Physics 140 Principles of Physics I and 141 Principles of Physics II (algebra-based) and Physics 180 Physics for Scientists and Engineers I and 181 Physics for Scientists and Engineers II (calculus-based). To take the calculus-based physics sequence, you will need to also earn credit for Math 254 Calculus and Analytic Geometry II (4 units) which can be taken prior to or at the same time as Physics 181.

**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	Biology elective	3
Chemistry elective	2-3	Biology elective	2-3
Gened CORE 390 World of Ideas	3	General Education elective	1-3
US Racial/Ethnic Diversity course	3	Electives to total 120 (if needed)	1-3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13-15</b>

**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.



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