BIOLOGY MAJOR (B.S.)

https://colsa.unh.edu/biological-sciences/program-bs/biology-major

Description

The biology major is designed to provide a strong, broad education in biological sciences to students interested in the life sciences. The biology major integrates theoretical and practical (hands-on laboratory and field work) courses in different aspects of the biology of animals, microbes, and plants. The curriculum is designed to reflect the diversity of biological systems in nature. It encompasses the study of structural and functional relationships of living organisms at the molecular, cellular, and organismal level, the interactions of living systems with the environment and with each other, and the evolutionary relationships of various forms of life. The goal is to create a facilitative environment for those with a scholarly interest in the biological sciences, and to extend their understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the diversity of the biological sciences.

The major is aimed at promoting excellence in biological science education by involving undergraduate students in strong interaction with faculty both in the classroom and in research laboratories, and encouraging the development of quality undergraduate programs in all aspects of biology.

The biology major prepares students for graduate work in the biological and medical fields, and for job opportunities in industry (biomedical, pharmaceutical, environmental, and biotechnological) and governmental research, and secondary school teaching. Completion of the four-year undergraduate program plus a fifth-year internship will be necessary for biology teaching certification. Students who plan to enter medical, dental, or related professional schools are advised to confer with their faculty adviser to build the requirements for these programs into their academic majors.

Courses in the biology major are selected from departments that constitute the biological sciences community at UNH. The flexibility of the curriculum allows student choice of a wide selection of courses in various departments. Students in the major take a biology core curriculum consisting of introductory and upper-level science courses. They must also take seven additional courses in the biological sciences; three of these must be selected from course lists in three broad categories.

While students are advised to declare the biology major as incoming first-year students to assure adequate program planning, transfer into the program at a later stage is also possible. Since several of the other biological sciences majors share the same biology core curriculum, it is quite easy to change to or from these other majors.

Requirements

Biology Core Curriculum

The biology courses in the core curriculum constitute an integrated sequence of courses imparting basic skills and concepts of biology to expose students to the breadth of knowledge inherent in the biological sciences. The biology core allows a student to obtain a broad background in biology, and in the related physical sciences and math.

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Biology Electives

In addition to the biology core curriculum, students must complete seven biology elective courses. One course must be taken from each of the three categories/disciplines; the other four electives can be chosen from the category lists or can be any other biological sciences course with approval of the student’s adviser. At least two of these must be courses with labs. The last four courses must be 500-level or above. There must be one animal-identified course (A) and one plant-identified course (P). One capstone experience, supervised and approved within the major, is required only for first-year biology majors.  

Students exploring pre-health professions should take a full year of Organic Chemistry (CHEM 651/653 and CHEM 652/654) in place of CHEM 545/CHEM 546 and BMCB 658/BMCB 659.

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### Category 1: Invertebrate Evolution and Ecology (A)
- **BMS 507**: Human Anatomy and Physiology I (A) 4
- **BMS 508**: Human Anatomy and Physiology II (A) 4
- **BMS 702**: Endocrinology 4
- **BMS 718**: Mammalian Physiology (A) 4
- **ZOOL 518**: Vertebrate Morphology (A) 5
- **ZOOL 625**: Principles of Animal Physiology (A, ZOOL 626 Lab optional) 3
- **ZOOL 773**: Physiology of Fish (A) 4
- **ZOOL 777**: Neuroethology 3
- **MEFB 754**: Anatomy and Function of Marine Vertebrates (SML, A) 4
- **BioSM 1650**: Whales, Seals and Sharks (SML, A) 3

### Category 2: Genetics/Development (including molecular biology and bioinformatics)
- **ANSC 612**: Genetics of Domestic Animals (A) 4
- **BMCB 605**: Eukaryotic Cell and Developmental Biology 4
- **GEN 704**: Genetics of Prokaryotic Microbes 5
- **GEN 705**: Population and Quantitative Genetics 4
- **GEN 706**: Human Genetics (A) 4
- **GEN 711**: Genomics and Bioinformatics 4
- **GEN 717**: Molecular Genetics 4
- **GEN 722**: Evolutionary Genetics of Plants (P, C) 4
- **GEN 724**: Techniques in Plant Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (P, C) 4
- **ZOOL 529**: Developmental Biology (A) 4
- **ZOOL 736**: Genes and Behavior (A, C) 4

### Category 3: Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity (including population biology)
- **BIOL 510**: Mushrooms, Molds, and Mildews: Introduction to the Fungal Kingdom 4
- **BIOL 704**: Plant-Microbe Interactions 3
- **BIOL 720**: Plant-Animal Interactions 4
- **BIOL 752**: Mycology 4
- **BIOL 566**: Systematic Botany (P) 4
- **GEN 715**: Molecular Evolution 4
- **MEFB 525**: Introduction to Aquatic Botany (P) 4
- **MEFB 527**: Aquatic Animal Diversity (A) 4
- **MEFB 717**: Lake Ecology 4
- **MEFB 722**: Marine Physiology (P, C) 4
- **MEFB 725**: Marine Ecology (C) 4
- **MEFB 747**: Aquatic Plants in Restoration/Management (P) 4
- **NR 506**: Forest Entomology (A) 4
- **NR 642**: Introduction to Biogeography 4
- **NR 660**: Ecology and Biogeography of New Zealand 5
- **NR 663**: Applied Directed Research in New Zealand (C) 4
- **NR 712**: Mammalogy (A) 4
- **NR 713**: Quantitative Ecology 4
- **NR 765**: Community Ecology 4
- **ZOOL 542**: Ornithology (A) 4
- **ZOOL 613**: Animal Behavior (A) 5
- **ZOOL 628**: Marine Invertebrate Evolution and Ecology (A) 5
- **ZOOL 690**: Evolution (C) 4
- **ZOOL 710**: Ichthyology (A) 4
- **ZOOL 733**: Behavioral Ecology (A, C) 4
- **ZOOL 745**: Biology and Diversity of Insects (A, C) 4
- **MEFB 510**: Field Ornithology (SML, A) 4
- **MEFB 630**: Biodiversity and Ecology of Marine Invertebrates (SML, A) 4
- **MEFB 674**: Ecology and Marine Environment (SML) 4
- **MEFB 714**: Field Animal Behavior (SML, A, C) 4
- **BIOSM 1780**: Evolution and Marine Diversity (SML) 4

### Other Elective Options
- **BIOL 700**: Current and Controversial Issues in Biology 4
- **BMS 602**: Pathogenic Microbiology 5
- **BMS 603**: Genetics of Domestic Animals (A) 3
- **BMS 703**: Infectious Disease and Health 4
- **BMS 706**: Virology 5
- **BMS 708**: Pathogenic Microbiology Laboratory 4
- **BMS 711**: Toxicology 4
- **HMP 501**: Epidemiology and Community Medicine 4
- **NSB 727**: Animal Communication (A) 4
- **NSB 728**: Research Methods in Animal Behavior (A) 4
- **PSYC 531**: Psychobiology 4
- **SAFS 651**: Plant Pathology (P) 4
- **ZOOL 610**: Principles of Aquaculture 4
- **ZOOL 726**: Conservation Behavior 4
- **ZOOL 750**: Biological Oceanography 4

Note: It is strongly recommended that students participate in an exchange semester at another university, or in a field-oriented program or internship. There are many exchange opportunities available in which a full semester of credits toward the major may be earned. It is further recommended that students explore possibilities of one or more semesters of independent investigation (research projects). For details, students should contact their adviser. Financial support is available for most of these programs. In addition, students can explore the courses at the Shoals Marine Laboratory (SML), which provides an excellent setting for several "field-oriented" courses during the summer. Often there is financial support available for the SML programs. (See the SML website at https://marine.unh.edu/SML or the Cornell website at http://www.shoalsmarinelaboratory.org for details.)

One 600, 695, 795, or 796 experience totaling three or more credits or any two 795-796 experiences of two credits each can fulfill one course requirement in any category with adviser approval. A Petition for Academic Variance approved by the chair of the Department of Biological Sciences is required to count 795-796 experiences for more than one major-required course. Students should check the biology website colsa.unh.edu/dbs/biology (http://colsa.unh.edu/dbs/biology) and the UNH online catalog for updates and current course offerings.

### Academic Requirements
To receive the B.S. degree in biology, students must complete 128 credit hours with at least a 2.0 cumulative grade-point average. Courses must include all UNH Discovery Program requirements, biology core curriculum requirements, seven additional courses from the biological sciences, and a capstone experience or course. The capstone explores areas of interest based on the integration of prior learning. Departments are responsible for certifying that graduating seniors have met the capstone...
requirement for their majors. A minimum grade of C- is required in all biological science courses that are counted toward the requirements for a degree in biology. Students who expect to compete successfully for post-baccalaureate programs should attain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher by the end of the sophomore year and maintain it at that level.