

Program Progression Guide

Disclaimer: The 2024-25 Purdue West Lafayette catalog is considered the source for academic and programmatic requirements for students entering programs during the Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Summer 2025 semesters. The Program Progression Guide assists students in the development of an individualized 8-semester plan. Students are encouraged to use this guide and MyPurduePlan* (an online degree auditing tool) as they work with their academic advisor towards the completion of their degree requirements.

Notification: Each student is ultimately responsible for knowing, monitoring, and completing all degree requirements.

An undergraduate degree in the College of Science requires completion of the following degree requirements.

| University Degree Requirements | | |
|--|---|---|
| Minimum 2.0 Cumulative GPA | Minimum 120 Credits that fulfill degree requirements. | 32 Residency Credits (30000-level and above) at a Purdue University campus |
| University Core Curriculum** | | |
| https://www.purdue.edu/provost/students/s-initiatives/curriculum/courses.html | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Cultures: Behavioral/Social Science Human Cultures: Humanities Information Literacy Oral Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative Reasoning Science Science, Technology & Society Selective Written Communication | |
| Civic Literacy Proficiency | | |
| https://www.purdue.edu/provost/about/provostInitiatives/civics/ | | |
| Required Major Program Courses (see following pages) | | |
| Departmental specific requirements, including 2.0 average GPA in classes required to fulfill biology requirements. Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA Must have a 500-level BIOL course (2-3 credit approved BIOL lecture) | | |
| College of Science Core Curriculum | | |
| https://www.purdue.edu/science/Current_Students/curriculum_and_degree_requirements/college-of-science-core-requirements.html? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Communication – 3 credits Technical Writing and Presentation - 3 credits Teaming & Collaboration (NC) General Education - 9 credits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Language & Culture – 9 credits Great Issues - 3 credits Laboratory Science - 8 credits STS (Science, Tech & Society) - 3 credits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics - 6-10 credits Statistics - 3 credits Computing - 3 credits |
| Degree Electives | | |
| Any Purdue or transfer course approved to meet degree requirements in accordance with individual departmental policies. The College of Science has identified courses that are below the disciplinary level of each program and major area of study. While similar, Not Recommended course lists vary between departments. | | |

* This audit is not your academic transcript and it is not official notification of completion of degree or certificate requirements.

** University Core Curriculum Outcomes may be met through completion of the College of Science Core curriculum. Students should consult with their academic advisors and MyPurdue Plan for course selections.

2024-25 Biology Degree Progression Guide

The Department of Biological Sciences has suggested the following degree progression guide for the Biology Degree. Students will work with their academic advisors to determine their best path to degree completion. Course pre-requisites listed are notes specific to this degree plan (not all pre-requisites are listed for every course).

| Credit | Fall 1st Year | Prerequisite | Credit | Spring 1st Year | Prerequisite |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 | BIOL 12100 | | 3 | BIOL 13100 | |
| 5 | CHM 12901 | ALEKS 85 or Calc Placement | 4 | CHM 25500-25501 | D or better in CHM 12901 |
| 2 | BIOL 13500 or 1450x | (BIOL 121 or 131) & CHM 12901 co-req | 3-5 | Calculus II selective | C- or better in Calculus I |
| 3-5 | Calculus I selective | ALEKS 75 or 85 | 3-4 | Science Core Option | |
| 3 | Science Core Option | | 3 | Science Core Option | |
| 1 | Elective (BIOL 11500 pref.) | BIOL 12100 co-req | | | |
| 16-18 | | | 16-19 | | |

| Credit | Fall 2nd Year | Prerequisite | Credit | Spring 2nd Year | Prerequisite |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 | BIOL 23100 | BIOL 13100 and CHM 12901 co-req | 3 | BIOL 24100 | BIOL 23100 |
| 2 | BIOL 23200 | BIOL 23100 co-req | 2 | BIOL 24200 | BIOL 24100 co-req |
| 4 | CHM 25600-25601 | C- or better in CHM 25500 | 3 | CHM 33900 | C- or better in CHM 25600 |
| 3 | Science Core Option | | 1 | CHM 33901 | CHM 33900 co-req |
| 3 | Science Core Option | | 2 | BIOL 28600 | BIOL 12100 |
| | | | 1 | Free Elective (BIOL 29300 pref) | |
| | | | 3 | Science Core Option | |
| 15 | | | 15 | | |

| Credit | Fall 3rd Year | Prerequisite | Credit | Spring 3rd Year | Prerequisite |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 3-4 | Intermediate Biology Selective | BIOL 23100 & 24100 | 3-4 | Group B Selective | varies |
| 2-3 | Group A Selective | varies | 3-4 | Science Core Option | |
| 4 | PHYS I Selective | BIOL, CHM, Calc 2 (varies) | 4 | PHYS II Selective | PHYS I |
| 3 | Science Core Option | | 1 | Elective (BIOL 39300 pref.) | |
| 3 | Elective | | 3 | Science Core Option | |
| 15-17 | | | 14-16 | | |

| Credit | Fall 4th Year | Prerequisite | Credit | Spring 4th Year | Prerequisite |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2-4 | Base Lab Requirement | varies | 3 | Biology 500 Level Selective | varies |
| 4 | Science Core Option – CS 17700 rec. | | 3 | Biology Selective | varies |
| 1-3 | Science Core Option | | 3 | Science Core Option – STAT 50300 rec. | C- or better in calc II |
| 3 | Elective | | 4 | Elective | |
| 4 | Elective | | 3 | Elective | |
| 14-17 | | | 16 | | |

Science Core Curriculum Options

(one course needed for each requirement unless otherwise noted)

| Options recommended for first- and second-year students | Options recommended for third- and fourth-year students |
|---|--|
| Written Communication ^{UC} General Education ^{UC} (9 credits needed) Foreign Language and Culture ^{UC} (9 credits needed with JEDI) Science Tech and Society ^{UC} (BIOL 12100) | Technical Writing and Presentation ^{UC} (COM 217 recommended) Statistics (STAT 50300) Computing (CS 17700 or CS 18000 also meet Teambuilding) Great Issues |

^{UC} Select courses may also satisfy a University Core Curriculum requirement; see the University Core Requirement [course list](#) for approved courses. Students must have 32 credits at the 30000 level or above taken at Purdue.

BIOLOGY (BIOL)

Fall 2024

Graduation Requirements:

- A minimum 2.0 average in all biology courses required for this major.
- At least one approved 2-3 credit **500-level Biology** course is required (excludes lab only courses such as BIOL 54200 & 5xxxx lab modules)
- A minimum of 32 credits at or above the 300-level completed at a Purdue campus
- 120 Total Credits Minimum

BIOLOGY CORE (19 credits):

1. BIOL 12100 Biology I: Diversity, Ecology and Behavior (2 cr.; fall)
2. BIOL 13100 Biology II: Development, Structure, and Function of Organisms (3 cr.; spring)
3. BIOL 13500 1st Year Biology Lab (2 cr.; both) **or**
BIOL 14503 First Yr Bio Lab Dis Ecol-Hnrs (2 cr.; alternate fall) **or**
BIOL 14504 First Yr Lab Diet Disease Immun Sys-Hnrs (2 cr.; spring) **or**
BIOL 14505 First Yr Lab Phages Folds-Hnrs (2 cr.; fall)
4. BIOL 23100 Biology III: Cell Structure and Function (3 cr.; fall)
5. BIOL 23200 Laboratory in Biology III: Cell Structure and Function (2 cr.; fall)
6. BIOL 24100 Biology IV: Genetics and Molecular Biology (3 cr.; spring)
7. BIOL 24200 Laboratory in Genetics and Molecular Biology (2 cr.; spring)
8. BIOL 28600 Intro. to Ecology & Evolution (2 cr.; spring)

UPPER-LEVEL BIOLOGY COURSEWORK (14-16 credits):

Must have at least 14 credits of coursework, including courses which meet each of the following categories: "Intermediate," "Group A," "Group B," "BIOL 500-level," and "Base Lab Requirement." Courses may double-dip among requirements. If a course is used multiple places, the credits will only count once towards the required 14 credits of Upper-Level Biology Coursework. Excess Upper-Level Biology Coursework beyond 16 credits will count as "free electives." (also see Footnotes on the last page).

9. **Intermediate Biology Selective** -- complete ONE of these:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. BIOL 32800 ^{1,2} Principles of Physiology (4 cr.; spring) | E. BIOL 41600 Viruses & Viral Diseases (3 cr.; spring) |
| B. BIOL 36700 Principles of Development (2 cr.; fall) | F. BIOL 42000 Eukaryotic Cell Biology (3 cr.; fall) |
| C. BIOL 38700 Macromolecules (2 cr.; fall) | G. BIOL 43600 Neurobiology (3 cr.; fall) |
| D. BIOL 41500 Intro. to Molecular Biology (3 cr.; spring) | H. BIOL 43800 General Microbiology (3 cr.; fall) |

10. **Biology Selectives:** see note above for "Upper-Level Biology Coursework"

Group A Selectives:

| | |
|---|--|
| BIOL 38700 Macromolecules (2 cr.; fall) | BIOL 53300 Medical Microbiology (3 cr.; fall) |
| BIOL 41500 Intro. to Molecular Biology (3 cr.; spring) | BIOL 53601 Biol & Structural Aspects of Drug Design & Action (3 cr; spr) |
| BIOL 41600 Viruses and Viral Diseases (3 cr.; spring) | BIOL 53800 Molecular, Cellular & Develop Neuro (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 42000 Eukaryotic Cell Biology (3 cr.; fall) | BIOL 54100 Molecular Genetics of Bacteria (3 cr.; fall) |
| BIOL 43600 Neurobiology (3 cr.; fall) | BIOL 54900 Microbial Ecology (2 cr.; alt spring) |
| BIOL 43800 General Microbiology (3 cr.; fall) | BIOL 55101 ² Theory of Molecular Methods (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 44400 Human Medical Genetics (3 cr.; spring) | BIOL 56200 Neural Systems (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 44600 Molecular Bacterial Pathogenesis (3 cr.; alt spring) | BIOL 56310 Protein Bioinformatics (3 cr.; alt spring) |
| BIOL 47800 Intro to Bioinformatics (3 cr.; fall) | BIOL 59500BCDP Bacteria in Cancer Dis & Prevention (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 48100 Eukaryotic Genetics (3 cr.; spring) | BIOL 59500U Cell Biology of Plants (3 cr.; fall) |
| BIOL 49500RNA RNA World: CRISPR & Coronavirus (2 cr; spring) | BIOL 59500CMA CRISPR Mechanisms & Applications (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 51099 ² Neural Mechanisms in Health & Dis (3 cr.; alt spring) | BIOL 59500CRYO ² CryoEM 3D Reconstruction (3 cr.; fall) |
| BIOL 51101 Intro to X-Ray Crystallography (3 cr.; spring) | BIOL 59500ICI Immun. Cancer & Infectious Disease (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 51202 Methods & Measures in Biophysical Chem (3 cr.; fall) | BIOL 59500D Neurobiology of Learning & Memory (3 cr.; alt fall) |
| BIOL 51600 Molecular Biology of Cancer (3 cr.; spring) | BIOL 59500M Practical Biocomputing (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 51606 Pathways in Human Health & Disease (3 cr.; fall) | BIOL 59500V Molecular Virology (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 51700 Molecular Biology: Proteins (2 cr.; alt spring) | BCHM 43400 Medical Topics in Biochemistry (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 52900 Bacterial Physiology (3 cr.; spring) | BCHM 56200 General Biochemistry II (3 cr.; spring) |

Group B Selectives:

| | |
|---|---|
| BIOL 20400 Human Anatomy & Physiology II (4 cr.; spring) | BIOL 58000 Evolution (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 32101 ² Experimental Design & Quant Analysis (3 cr.; summer) | BIOL 58210 ² Ecological Statistics (3 cr.; fall) |
| BIOL 32800 ^{1,2} Principles of Physiology (4 cr.; spring) | BIOL 58601 Ecology (3 cr.; fall) |
| BIOL 36700 Principles of Development (2 cr.; fall) | BIOL 58705 Animal Communication (3 cr.; alt fall) |
| BIOL 48300 ^{2,3} Environmental & Conservation Biol (3 cr.; alt spring) | BIOL 59100 ² Field Ecology (3 cr.; alt fall) |
| BIOL 49500BMR ² Biodiversity & Museum Research (3 cr.; fall) | BIOL 59200 The Evolution of Behavior (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 49500DSB ² Data Science for Biologists (3 cr.; fall) | BIOL 59500BTL ² Building the Tree of Life: Phylogenetics (3 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 52905 Disease Ecology (3 cr.; spring) | HORT 30100 Plant Physiology (4 cr.; spring) |
| BIOL 53700 Immunobiology (3 cr.; fall) | |

Additional Selectives (optional): can count toward the 14-16 cr. of Upper-Level Biol Coursework but not as Group A or Group B requirement:

- | | |
|--|---|
| BIOL 49400 or BIOL 49900 Research - max of 3 credits | BIOL 49500TEC Topics in Endocrinology & Cancer (2 cr; spring) |
| BIOL 44100 Senior Seminar in Genetics (1 cr.; fall) | BCHM 52100 Comparative Genomics (3 cr; spring) |

11. **Base Lab Requirement:** see "Base Lab Requirement (BLR) for all Biology Majors" as described on the next page.

Base Laboratory Requirement (BLR) for all Biology Majors

- Each student must complete one course from the “Required Course” list in the chart below. Undergraduate research cannot be used to meet this requirement.
- Students must also satisfy Objectives A and B as listed in the chart below, which can be met by courses, research, or a combination of the two.
- Descriptions of Objectives A and B (not all tasks must be met to satisfy an objective):
 - Objective A** – Demonstrate the ability to plan and design hypothesis-driven experiments, simulations or discovery/observational experiments.
 - Conduct an appropriate literature review for a specific scientific topic.
 - Generate an applicable hypothesis (-es) for your research project.
 - Identify techniques to be used in your project, with justification of those techniques.
 - Write a formal research proposal.
 - Write a detailed outline of experiments.
 - Objective B** - Develop the ability to appropriately analyze, critically evaluate, and depict data. Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate scientific information orally and in writing, including synthesizing and evaluating scientific literature and putting experimental results in their appropriate scientific context.
 - Analyze data.
 - Use appropriate ways to depict and communicate data (e.g., graphs, movies, images, etc.). Present the research at lab meetings, in a talk, or at a poster session.
 - Write a summary (or summaries) of the data.
- If research is used, the research director will be the one who decides if the research meets Obj A and/or Obj B.
- If research is used, it must include at least four credits of BIOL 49400 and/or 49900. (BIOL 29400, non-BIOL research, and research for pay will not count toward the BLR.)
- Students who successfully complete a Biology Honors Research Thesis automatically meet Objectives A and B with the approved thesis but must still complete a “Required Course.”
- The “*Microbiology*” and the “*Health & Disease*” majors must use BIOL 43900 Micro Lab for the BLR; the “*Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology*” majors must use BIOL 59500 Laboratory in Ecology for the BLR.

Base Laboratory Requirement Chart

| Course | Title | Required Course | Obj. A | Obj. B | Usually Offered | Format | Pre-Req (PR) or Co-Req (CR) beyond core courses |
|----------------|--|-----------------|--------|--------|-----------------|-------------|---|
| BIOL 32101 | Experim Design & Analysis-Hnrs (3cr) | | X | X | Summer | online | |
| BIOL 32800 | Principles of Physiology (4cr) | X | | | Spring | | |
| BIOL 43900 | Microbiology Lab (2cr) | X | X | X | Fall | | PR/CR=43800 |
| BIOL 44212 | Microscopy & Cell Bio (1cr) | X | | X | Spring | 5-wk module | |
| BIOL 48300 | Environmental & Conservation Biology (3cr) | | X | X | alt Spring '24 | | |
| BIOL 49500BMR | Biodiversity & Museum Research (3cr) | | X | X | Fall | | PR=28600 |
| BIOL 49500DSB | Data Science for Biologists (3cr) | X | X | X | Fall | | PR=28600 |
| BIOL 49500TEC | Topics in Endocrinology & Cancer (2cr) | | X | X | Spring | | |
| BIOL 51099 | Neural Mechanisms in Health & Disease (3cr) | | X | X | alt Spring '23 | | PR=32800 or 43600; CR=56200 |
| BIOL 55101 | Theory of Molecular Methods (3cr) | | X | X | alt Spring | | PR=41500 |
| BIOL 54200 | Neurophysiology (1cr) | X | | X | Fall | 5-wk module | PR=32800 or CR=43600 |
| BIOL 58210 | Ecological Statistics (3cr) | | X | X | Fall | | PR=STAT 50300 |
| BIOL 58602 | Laboratory in Ecology (1cr) | X | X | X | Fall | | PR/CR=58601 |
| BIOL 59500BTL | Building the Tree of Life: Phylogenetics (3cr) | X | X | X | Spring | | research experience recommended |
| BIOL 59500CRYO | CryoEM 3D Reconstruction (3cr) | | X | X | Fall | | PR=PHYS 23300 or 17200 |
| BIOL 59500BN | Data Analysis in Neuroscience (1cr) | | | X | Spring | 5-wk module | |
| BIOL 59500SBL | Structural Biology Lab (1cr) | X | | X | Spring | 5-wk module | |

CHEMISTRY (17 credits) -- complete all of the following:

1. General Chemistry (5 credits):
CHM 12901 General Chemistry with a Biological Focus (5 cr.; fall)
2. Organic Chemistry (8 credits):
CHM 25500 Organic Chemistry I (3 cr.; both) and
CHM 25501 Organic Chemistry Lab I (1 cr.; both) and
CHM 25600 Organic Chemistry II (3 cr.; both) and
CHM 25601 Organic Chemistry Lab II (1 cr.; both)
3. Biochemistry (4 credits):
CHM 33900 Biochemistry: A Molecular Approach (3 cr.; spring) and
CHM 33901 Biochemistry Laboratory (1 cr; spring)

PHYSICS (8 credits) -- One of these two options -- (PHYS 23300+23400 are recommended):

1. PHYS 23300 Physics for Life Sciences I (4 cr.; both) and
PHYS 23400 Physics for Life Sciences II (4 cr.; both)
2. PHYS 17200 Modern Mechanics (4 cr.; both) and one of the following two choices:
 - a. PHYS 27200 Electric and Magnetic Interactions (4 cr.; both) or
 - b. PHYS 24100 Electricity and Optics (3 cr.; both) and PHYS 25200 Electricity and Optics Laboratory (1 cr.; spring)

STATISTICS (3 credits) -- STAT 50300 is required (3 cr.; fall, spring, summer); prerequisite is a C- or better in calculus 2

OTHER: all University Core, College of Science Core, and Civics Literacy Requirements must also be completed.

FREE ELECTIVES: Approximately 12-36 credits

¹ This course counts for Upper-Level Biology Coursework and the College of Science Teambuilding & Collaboration requirement.

² This course counts towards portions of the Base Lab Requirement, but 14-16 total credits of Upper-Level Biology Coursework must still be earned.

³ This course may count for Upper-Level Biology Coursework and the College of Science Great Issues requirement.
