PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Biology (BIOL)

College of Science

2025-2026

Program Progression Guide

Disclaimer: The 2025-26 Purdue West Lafayette catalog is considered the source for academic and programmatic requirements for students entering programs during the Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Summer 2026 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		
• Human Cultures: Behavioral/Social Science • Human Cultures: Humanities • Information Literacy • Oral Communication	• 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?		
• Written Communication – 3 credits • Technical Writing and Presentation - 3 credits • Teaming & Collaboration (NC) • General Education - 9 credits	• Language & Culture – 9 credits • Great Issues - 3 credits • Laboratory Science - 8 credits • STS (Science, Tech & Society) - 3 credits	• 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.

2025-26 Biology (BIOL)
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. Pre-requisite notes are specific to this degree plan (they may change; not all 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 concurrent	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 recommended)	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 conc.)	3	BIOL 24100	BIOL 23100
2	BIOL 23200	BIOL 23100 concurrent	2	BIOL 24200	BIOL 24100 concurrent
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 concurrent
3	Science Core Option		2	BIOL 28600	BIOL 12100
			1	Free Elective (BIOL 29300 recommended)	
			3	Science Core Option	
15			**15**		

Credit	Fall 3rd Year	Prerequisite	Credit	Spring 3rd Year	Prerequisite
2-4	Intermediate Biology Selective	BIOL 23100 & 24100	3-4	Group B Selective	varies
2-3	Group A Selective	varies	3	Science Core Option	
4	PHYS I Selective (23300 recommended)	BIOL 12100+13100; & CHM 12901; & Calc 2	4	PHYS II Selective (23400 recommended)	PHYS I
3	Science Core Option		1-3	Elective	
3	Elective		3	Science Core Option	
14-17			**14-17**		

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 recc'd		3	Biology Selective	varies
3	Science Core Option		3	Science Core – STAT 50300	C- or better in calc II
3	Elective		3	Elective	
1-3	Elective		3	Elective	
14-17			**15**		

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]	Technical Writing and Presentation[UC] (COM 217 recommended)
General Education[UC] (9 credits needed)	Statistics (STAT 50300 is required)
Language and Culture[UC] (9 credits; must include a JEDI course)	Computing (CS 17700 also meets Teambuilding)
Science Tech and Society[UC] (BIOL 12100)	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 2025

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 like BIOL 542xx and 59500 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)
   - B. BIOL 36700 Principles of Development (2 cr.; fall)
   - C. BIOL 38700 Macromolecules (2 cr.; fall)
   - D. BIOL 41500 Intro. to Molecular Biology (3 cr.; spring)
   - E. BIOL 41600 Viruses & Viral Diseases (3 cr.; spring)
   - F. BIOL 42000 Eukaryotic Cell Biology (3 cr.; fall)
   - G. BIOL 43600 Neurobiology (3 cr.; fall)
   - 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 41500 Intro. to Molecular Biology (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 41600 Viruses and Viral Diseases (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 42000 Eukaryotic Cell Biology (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 43600 Neurobiology (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 43800 General Microbiology (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 44400 Human Medical Genetics (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 44600 Molecular Bacterial Pathogenesis (3 cr.;alt spring)
BIOL 47800 Intro to Bioinformatics (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 48100 Eukaryotic Genetics (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 49500RNA RNA World: CRISPR & Coronavirus (2 cr; spring)
BIOL 51099[2] Neural Mechanisms in Health & Dis (3 cr.; alt spring)
BIOL 51101 Intro to X-Ray Crystallography (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 51202 Methods & Measures in Biophysical Chem (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 51600 Molecular Biology of Cancer (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 51606 Pathways in Human Health & Disease (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 51700 Molecular Biology: Proteins (2 cr.; alt spring)
BIOL 52900 Bacterial Physiology (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 53300 Medical Microbiology (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 53601 Biol & Structural Aspects of Drug Design & Action (3 cr; spr)
BIOL 53800 Molecular, Cellular & Develop Neuro (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 54100 Molecular Genetics of Bacteria (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 54900 Microbial Ecology (2 cr.; alt spring)
BIOL 55101[2] Theory of Molecular Methods (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 56200 Neural Systems (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 56310 Protein Bioinformatics (3 cr.; alt spring)
BIOL 57340 Neurobiology of Learning & Memory (3 cr.; alt fall)
BIOL 59500BCDP Bacteria in Cancer Dis & Prevention (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 59500U Cell Biology of Plants (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 59500CMA CRISPR Mechanisms & Applications (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 59500ICI Immun. Cancer & Infectious Disease (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 59500M Practical Biocomputing (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 59500V Molecular Virology (3 cr.; spring)
BCHM 43400 Medical Topics in Biochemistry (3 cr.; spring)

Group B Selectives:

BIOL 20400 Human Anatomy & Physiology II (4 cr.; spring)
BIOL 32101[2] Experimental Design & Quant Analysis (3 cr.; summer)
BIOL 32800[1,2] Principles of Physiology (4 cr.; spring)
BIOL 36700 Principles of Development (2 cr.; fall)
BIOL 41919[2] Data Science for Biologists (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 48300[2,3] Environmental & Conservation Biol (3 cr.; alt spring)
BIOL 49500BMR[2] Biodiversity & Museum Research (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 52905 Disease Ecology (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 53700 Immunobiology (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 58000 Evolution (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 58210[2] Ecological Statistics (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 58215[2] Building the Tree of Life: Phylogenetics (3 cr.; spring)
BIOL 58601 Ecology (3 cr.; fall)
BIOL 58705 Animal Communication (3 cr.; alt fall)
BIOL 59100[2] Field Ecology (3 cr.; alt fall)
BIOL 59200 The Evolution of Behavior (3 cr.; spring)
HORT 30100 Plant Physiology (4 cr.; spring)

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 44100 Senior Seminar in Genetics (1 cr.; fall)
BIOL 49500TEC Topics in Endocrinology & Cancer (2 cr; spring)
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

1. Students must complete one course from the "Required Course" column in the chart below. Undergraduate research cannot be used to meet the "Required Course" portion of the BLR.
2. 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.
3. Descriptions of Objectives A and B (not all tasks must be met to satisfy an objective):
    a. **Objective A** – Demonstrate the ability to plan and design hypothesis-driven experiments, simulations or discovery/observational experiments.
        i. Conduct an appropriate literature review for a specific scientific topic.
        ii. Generate an applicable hypothesis (-es) for your research project.
        iii. Identify techniques to be used in your project, with justification of those techniques.
        iv. Write a formal research proposal.
        v. Write a detailed outline of experiments.
    b. **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.
        i. Analyze data.
        ii. 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.
        iii. Write a summary (or summaries) of the data.
4. If research is used, the research director will be the one who decides if the research meets Obj A and/or Obj B.
5. 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.)
6. 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."
7. 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 58602 Lab in Ecology for the BLR; The *"Chemical Biology & Biochemistry"* majors meet the BLR requirement through the CBB Research Capstone.

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 41919	Data Science for Biologists (3cr)	X	X	X	Fall		PR=28600
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 '26		
BIOL 49500BMR	Biodiversity & Museum Research (3cr)		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 Fall		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 54202	Data Analysis in Neuroscience (1cr)			X	Spring	5-wk module	
BIOL 58210	Ecological Statistics (3cr)		X	X	Fall		PR=STAT 50300
BIOL 58215	Building the Tree of Life: Phylogenetics (3cr)	X	X	X	Spring		PR=231/241 and prior research
*BIOL 58602	Laboratory in Ecology (1cr)	X	X	X	Fall		PR/CR=58601
*BIOL 59500SBL	Structural Biology Lab (1cr)	X		X	Spring	5-wk module	

**course does not meet the 500-level BIOL requirement*

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):
   An in-person gen chem lab must be completed to qualify for organic labs (met through CHM 12901)
   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 6-34 credits

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[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.
