

Sample 4-Year and 3-Year Plans for the Biological Sciences BS Degree

Sample 4-Year Plan

This is just one example of a schedule of coursework that will allow students to complete the degree in four years. There are many other possibilities; in addition, course offerings are subject to change and the suggested courses may not be available as listed. Students should work with their BASC adviser during the mandatory advising period to come up with an individual plan that suits their needs and interests.

To complete the course of study in four years, it will be necessary to take 2-3 science/math courses simultaneously during several quarters. As shown in the sample, we recommend that freshmen start with BIS 2A and CHE 2A in the Fall Quarter. Students that do well should try to add a third science or math class in Winter Quarter; Math is recommended because it is a prerequisite for other preparatory or upper division coursework required for the BIS major. Students that are not able to handle three science/math courses in Winter Quarter should return to a lighter load, but realize that they may need to use summer sessions to complete the degree in four years. Summer session courses are limited and so meeting with a BASC adviser to evaluate revised study plans is strongly recommended.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Year 1	BIS 2A	BIS 2B	BIS 2C
	CHE 2A	CHE 2B	CHE 2C
	EC	MAT 17A	MAT 17B
	GE	ELECTIVE	FRS
	17	17	16
Year 2	CHE 118A	CHE 118B	CHE 118C
	MAT 17C	STA 100	BIS 101
	GE	GE	BIS 101D
	GE	GE	ELECTIVE
	16	16	13
Year 3	PHY 7A	PHY 7B	PHY 7C
	BIS 102	BIS 103	BIS 104
	ECOLOGY Depth	EVOLUTION Depth	MICROBIO Depth
	GE	GE	GE
	15	15	14
Year 4	EC	Animal NPB Depth	RE
	PLANT Biol Depth	RE	Animal NPB or other lab
	MICRO or other LAB	RE	RE
	ELECTIVE	GE	ELECTIVE
	13	15	14

EC = College English Composition Requirement (lower & upper division); GE = General Education (see an adviser for categories covered by major courses); FRS = First-year Seminar; RE = Restricted Elective for the major

Sample 3-Year Plan

Some students may desire to complete the BIS BS degree in less than four years. However, completing a Biological Sciences degree in three years is not recommended for most students for the reasons below. Students interested in attempting this *must* meet with a BASC adviser to form an individual plan. The 3-year plan shown is just a sample.

-Only students with exceptional ability and study habits should consider this plan. The preparatory and depth courses for BIS majors are challenging and build upon one another. Students normally need time to practice and assimilate material in prerequisite courses to effectively learn material in subsequent courses. Completing the major in three years would not allow this for the majority of students.

-A key aspect of the educational experience for Biological Sciences Majors is carrying out internships and/or research outside of the classroom, over multiple quarters. Such experience is needed for students to directly obtain employment upon graduation, or to be competitive for admission to professional and graduate programs. The heavy course load during the year and summer required to finish in 3 years makes it difficult to obtain the necessary in-depth experience.

-A three year schedule is time-intensive and should only be considered by students who do not need outside employment while attending the University.

-Course offerings are subject to change and the suggested courses may not be available as listed; summer offerings of science courses are limited. Students must evaluate course offerings each quarter and work with BASC advisers to optimize their schedule.

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer I	Summer II
Year 1	BIS 2A 5	BIS 2B 5	BIS 2C 5	MAT 17C 4	CHE 118A 4
	CHE 2A 5	CHE 2B 5	CHE 2C 5	GE 4	GE 4
	EC 4	MAT 17A 4	MAT 17B 4		
	GE 3	GE 4	FRS 2		
	17	18	16	8	8
Year 2	CHE 118B 4	CHE 118C 4	PHY 7C 4	GE 3	GE 3
	PHY 7A 4	PHY 7B 4	BIS 102 3	ELECTIVE 4	ELECTIVE 3
	STA 100 4	BIS 101 4	EVOLUTION Depth 4		
	GE 4	BIS 101D 1	GE 4		
		ECOLOGY Depth 4			
	16	17	15	7	6
Year 3	PLANT Biol Depth* 5	Animal NPB Depth 4	RE 4	ELECTIVE 4	ELECTIVE 4
	BIS 103 3	MICROBIO Depth 3	RE 4		
	BIS 104 3	RE 4	RE 3		
	EC 4	GE 3	GE 4		
	15	14	15	4	4

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*If PLB 105 or 116 is chosen to fulfill the Plant Biol Depth requirement, this also satisfies the lab requirement. Students choosing other Plant courses will need additional lab courses but these could count as restrictive electives.