

Biology

School of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering

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General Description

Biology is a natural science that focuses on physical and chemical processes in living organisms. This discipline explores how organisms acquire and use energy to maintain homeostasis, how they reproduce, and how they interact with each other and their environment. Biological processes are emphasized as a means of answering these questions. Biologists rely heavily on a chemistry foundation since living organisms are chemical systems.

Career Options

Below is a sample of the career options available for the biology major. A few of these require an associate in science degree, most require a bachelor's degree, and some require a graduate-level degree: agricultural consultant, animal health technician, biotechnology technician, dentist, environmental consultant, field biologist, forester, horticulturist, genetic counselor, bioinformatics specialist, agricultural scientist, environmental health worker, exercise physiologist, high school or college teacher, marine biologist, microbiologist, public health technician, physician, pharmaceutical researcher, research biologist, and veterinarian. In addition, a background in biology may be required for the following: registered nurse, physical therapist, respiratory therapist, dental hygienist, medical technician, physician's assistant, and optometrist.

Degree/Certificate Options

Associate in Science Degree: Transfer Preparation

Biology

Major Code

01510

Consult with a counselor to develop a Student Education Plan (SEP), which lists the courses necessary to achieve your academic goal.

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

Biology

Transfer Preparation* (Major Code: 01510)

Lower-division requirements are not the same for all universities, and there are differences among the areas of specialization. However, the courses listed below meet the lower-division requirements for most universities offering a bachelor's degree with a major in one of the biological sciences.

Students should start with mathematics and chemistry during the first year, as these are required for other science courses. Some of the courses may be applied toward the general education requirement.

Courses offered in biology, other than those listed below, are intended as general education courses for nonscience majors. They are not the acceptable courses for biology majors. Biology majors will take similar but more intensive courses as part of their upper-division requirements.

First Semester

CHEM 200	General Chemistry I **	5
MATH 121	Applied Calculus I ***	3

Second Semester

BIOL 210	General Zoology	4
CHEM 210	General Chemistry II **	5
MATH 122	Applied Calculus II ***	3

Third Semester

BIOL 211	Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology	4
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Fourth Semester

BIOL 212	Biology of Plants	4
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Total units	28
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To earn an associate degree, additional general education and graduation requirements must be completed. See page 49.

* Students planning to transfer to a four-year college or university should complete courses specific to the transfer institution of choice (e.g. UCSD molecular biology B.S., requires the MATH 250 sequence instead of MATH 121 and MATH 122). University requirements vary from institution to institution and are subject to change. Therefore, it is important to verify transfer major preparation and general education requirements through consultation with a counselor in either the Counseling Center or Transfer Center. See catalog TRANSFER COURSES INFORMATION section on page 32 for further information.

** If you do not meet the prerequisites for CHEM 200, take CHEM 170 in your first semester, then CHEM 200 in the second semester, and CHEM 210 in the third semester.

*** Students who plan to pursue a graduate degree in medicine or veterinary studies at a four-year college or university are advised to substitute MATH 250, 251, and 252 for MATH 121 and 122.