

BIOLOGY, B.S. (ABINGTON)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Abington

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2026-27 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

General Biology Option: Biology, B.S. at Abington Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 110 ^{**†}	4 BIOL 230W ^{*#}	4
ENGL 15 or 30H (GWS) [‡]	3 CHEM 112 (GN) ^{**†}	3
MATH 140 or 140B (GQ) ^{*†#†}	4 CHEM 113 (GN) [†]	1
CHEM 110 (GN) ^{**†}	3 General Education Course	3
CHEM 111 (GN) [†]	1 CAS 100A or 100B (GWS) [‡]	3
PSU 1	1 General Education Health and Wellness	1.5
	16	15.5

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 220W ^{*#}	4 BIOL 240W ^{*#}	4
CHEM 210	3 CHEM 212	3
STAT 200 or 250 (GQ) [*]	3-4 CHEM 213	2
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
	16-17	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3 BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3
PHYS 250 (GN) [†]	4 PHYS 251 (GN) [†]	4
General Education Course	3 ENGL 202C (GWS) [‡]	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	16	16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3 BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3
BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3 BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
General Education Health and Wellness	1.5	
	16.5	15

Total Credits 126-127

- * Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
- ‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
- # Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
- † Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Program Notes:

- **Disallowed Courses:** Students may select free elective courses from nearly the entire range of the University's offerings. However, the following courses may **NOT** be used to satisfy degree requirements in the Biology major, regardless of option, **not even as free electives**.
 - ASTRO 1**, 0**, 11**, 120**, 140**
 - BIOL 11**, 12**
 - BISC 1, 2, 3**, 4**
 - BMB 1**
 - CHEM 1, 2, 6, 11
 - CMPSC 1, 100, 110
 - ENGL 4, 5
 - LL ED 5, 10
 - MATH 1, 2, 3, 4, 17, 18, 30, 35, 36, 40, 81, 82, 83, 110, 111, 200
 - MICRB 106, 107, 120, 121A, 121B, 150 151A, 151C, 151D, 151E, 151F, 151W
 - PHYS 1, 150, 151
 - CAS 4, 126
 - STAT 100

- In addition, the following types of courses may **NOT** be used to satisfy degree requirements in the Biology major:
 - Courses intended for students in associate degree programs.
 - Courses which are remedial in nature or which focus on reading improvement or study skills. **NOTE:** Only 3 credits of CHEM 17 and only 4 credits of MATH 140A may be used to satisfy degree requirements.
 - Courses which substantially duplicate the subject matter covered in other completed courses taught at a comparable level.
 - No more than 5 credits of KINES may be used to satisfy degree requirements.
 - ** On rare occasions, with adequate justification, a student may be permitted to use one or more of these courses to satisfy degree requirements. A petition must be submitted to request such an exception and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Genetics and Developmental Biology Option: Biology, B.S. at Abington Campus

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First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 110 ^{*#†}	4 BIOL 230W ^{*#}	4
ENGL 15 or 30H (GWS) [‡]	3 CHEM 112 (GN) ^{*†}	3
MATH 140 or 140B (GQ) ^{*#†}	4 CHEM 113 (GN) [†]	1
CHEM 110 (GN) ^{*#†}	3 General Education Course	3
CHEM 111 (GN) [†]	1 CAS 100A or 100B (GWS) [‡]	3
PSU 1	1 General Education Health and Wellness	1.5
	16	15.5

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 220W ^{*#}	4 BIOL 240W ^{*#}	4
CHEM 210	3 CHEM 212	3
STAT 200 or 250 (GQ) [*]	3-4 CHEM 213	2
General Education Course	3 MICRB 201	3
General Education Course	3 MICRB 202 (or Elective)	2-3
	16-17	14-15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 422 or 460 (or BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options))	3 BIOL 430 or 443 (or BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options))	3
BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3 BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3
PHYS 250 (GN) [†]	4 PHYS 251 (GN) [†]	4
General Education Course	3 ENGL 202C (GWS) [‡]	3
Elective	3 General Education Course	3
	16	16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 422 or 460 (or BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options))	3 BIOL 430 or 443 (or BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options))	3
BMB 401	3 BMB 402	3
General Education Course	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3

General Education Health and Wellness	1.5
	16.5
	15

Total Credits 125-127

- * Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
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Program Notes:

- **Disallowed Courses:** Students may select free elective courses from nearly the entire range of the University's offerings. However, the following courses may **NOT** be used to satisfy degree requirements in the Biology major, regardless of option, **not even as free electives**.
 - ASTRO 1**, 0**, 11**, 120**, 140**
 - BIOL 11**, 12**
 - BISC 1, 2, 3**, 4**
 - BMB 1**
 - CHEM 1, 2, 6, 11
 - CMPSC 1, 100, 110
 - ENGL 4, 5
 - LL ED 5, 10
 - MATH 1, 2, 3, 4, 17, 18, 30, 35, 36, 40, 81, 82, 83, 110, 111, 200
 - MICRB 106, 107, 120, 121A, 121B, 150 151A, 151C, 151D, 151E, 151F, 151W
 - PHYS 1, 150, 151
 - CAS 4, 126
 - STAT 100
- In addition, the following types of courses may **NOT** be used to satisfy degree requirements in the Biology major:
 - Courses intended for students in associate degree programs.
 - Courses which are remedial in nature or which focus on reading improvement or study skills. **NOTE:** Only 3 credits of CHEM 17 and only 4 credits of MATH 140A may be used to satisfy degree requirements.
 - Courses which substantially duplicate the subject matter covered in other completed courses taught at a comparable level.
 - No more than 5 credits of KINES may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

- ** On rare occasions, with adequate justification, a student may be permitted to use one or more of these courses to satisfy degree requirements. A petition must be submitted to request such an exception and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Vertebrate Physiology Option: Biology, B.S. at Abington Campus

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BIOL 110 ^{**†}	4 BIOL 230W ^{**}	4
ENGL 15 or 30H (GWS) [‡]	3 CHEM 112 (GN) ^{**†}	3
MATH 140 or 140B (GQ) ^{*‡†}	4 CHEM 113 (GN) [†]	1
CHEM 110 (GN) ^{**†}	3 General Education Course	3
CHEM 111 (GN) [†]	1 CAS 100A or 100B (GWS) [‡]	3
PSU 1	1 General Education Health and Wellness	1.5
	16	15.5

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 220W ^{**}	4 BIOL 240W ^{**}	4
CHEM 210	3 CHEM 212	3
STAT 200 or 250 (GQ) [*]	3-4 CHEM 213	2
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
	16-17	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 472	3 BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3
BIOL 473	2 PHYS 251 (GN) [†]	4
PHYS 250 (GN) [†]	4 ENGL 202C (GWS) [‡]	3
General Education Course	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3 BIOL 400-Level Selection (consult with an academic adviser for options)	3
BMB 401	3 BMB 402	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
General Education Health and Wellness	1.5	
	16.5	15

Total Credits 125-126

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

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 - CHEM 1, 2, 6, 11
 - CMPSC 1, 100, 110
 - ENGL 4, 5
 - LL ED 5, 10
 - MATH 1, 2, 3, 4, 17, 18, 30, 35, 36, 40, 81, 82, 83, 110, 111, 200
 - MICRB 106, 107, 120, 121A, 121B, 150 151A, 151C, 151D, 151E, 151F, 151W
 - PHYS 1, 150, 151
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