

BIOLOGY, B.S. (ALTOONA)

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: Altoona

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, a minimum of 124 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	0-5
Requirements for the Major	89-99

15 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 9 credits of GN courses; 6 credits of GQ courses.

Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
CHEM 111	Experimental Chemistry I	1
Additional Courses		
CHEM 113	Experimental Chemistry II	1
or CHEM 113B	Experimental Chemistry II–Bioscience	
Select one of the following:		8-12
PHYS 211 & PHYS 212 & PHYS 213 & PHYS 214	General Physics: Mechanics and General Physics: Electricity and Magnetism and General Physics: Fluids and Thermal Physics and General Physics: Wave Motion and Quantum Physics	
PHYS 250 & PHYS 251	Introductory Physics I and Introductory Physics II	
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
BIOL 220W or BIOL 220M	Biology: Populations and Communities or Honors Biology: Populations and Communities	4
BIOL 230W or BIOL 230M	Biology: Molecules and Cells or Honors Biology: Molecules and Cells	4
BIOL 240W or BIOL 240M	Biology: Function and Development of Organisms or Honors Biology: Function and Development of Organisms	4
CHEM 110 or CHEM 110H	Chemical Principles I or Chemical Principles I - Honors	3
CHEM 112 or CHEM 112H	Chemical Principles II or Chemical Principles II - Honors	3

Select 4 credits from the following:		4
BIOL 110	Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity	
BIOL 110H	Honors Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity	
BIOL 110S	Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity	

Select 4 credits from the following:		4
MATH 140	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	
MATH 140B	Calculus and Biology I	
MATH 140H	Honors Calculus with Analytic Geometry I	

Select 3-4 credits from the following:		3-4
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	
STAT 240	Introduction to Biometry	
STAT 250	Introduction to Biostatistics	

Requirements for the Option

Select an option	50-55
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Requirements for the Option

Ecology Option (50-55 credits)

Available at the following campuses: Altoona, University Park

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
BIOL 463	General Ecology	3
Additional Courses		
STAT 462 or STAT 464	Applied Regression Analysis or Applied Nonparametric Statistics	3
Select one of the following:		6-8
CHEM 202 & CHEM 203	Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry I and Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry II	
CHEM 210 & CHEM 212 & (CHEM 213 or CHEM 213W or CHEM 213M)		

Groups

Select a minimum of 15 credits of 400-level biology courses, with at least 6 credits from the Ecology group, 3 credits from the Evolution group, and 3 credits from the Practicum group. A maximum of 3 credits of BIOL 400, 494, 495, 496, and SC 295, 395, 495 may be used to fulfill 15 credits minimum in the 400-level biology course requirements.

Ecology Group:		
BIOL 406	Symbiosis	
BIOL 412	Ecology of Infectious Diseases	
BIOL 415	Ecotoxicology	
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology	
BIOL 418	Biology of Human Infectious Diseases	
BIOL 419	Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving	
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi	
BIOL 429	Animal Behavior	
BIOL 435	Ecology of Lakes and Streams	
BIOL 436	Population Ecology and Global Climate Change	
BIOL 444	Field Ecology	
BIOL 445	Molecular Ecology	
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology	
BIOL 448	Ecology of Plant Reproduction	
BIOL 450W	Experimental Field Biology	
BIOL 464	Sociobiology	

BIOL 482	Coastal Biology
BIOL 483	Coastal Biology Travel Experience
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 489	Biology of Ecohealth in Tanzania
BIOL 499A	Tropical Field Ecology
Evolution Group:	
BIOL 405	Molecular Evolution
BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 420	Paleobotany
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 427	Evolution
BIOL 428	Population Genetics
BIOL 429	Animal Behavior
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 434	Pathobiology of Emerging Infectious Disease
BIOL 436	Population Ecology and Global Climate Change
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 440	Evolution of Infectious Diseases
BIOL 442	Evolutionary Medicine
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 464	Sociobiology
BIOL 474	Astrobiology
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
ENT 402W	Biology of Animal Parasites
Practicum Group:	
BIOL 400	Teaching in Biology
BIOL 402W	Biological Experimental Design
BIOL 403	Biological Writing and Communication for Research
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 419	Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 437	Histology
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 444	Field Ecology

BIOL 450W	Experimental Field Biology
BIOL 459	Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology
BIOL 465	Network analysis of biological systems
BIOL 473	Laboratory in Mammalian Physiology
BIOL 476	Advanced Human Anatomy - cadaver based
BIOL 477	Biology Cadaver Dissection
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 483	Coastal Biology Travel Experience
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 489	Biology of Ecohealth in Tanzania
BIOL 494	Research Project
BIOL 495	Internship in Biology
BIOL 496	Independent Studies
BIOL 499A	Tropical Field Ecology
BMB 442	Laboratory in Proteins, Nucleic Acids, and Molecular Cloning
PPEM 427	Mycotoxins: Effects of Fungal Toxins on Human and Animal Health
SC 220	Principles and Strategies for Effective STEM Learning I
SC 295	Science Co-op Work Experience I
SC 395	Science Co-op Work Experience II
SC 475N	Anatomy in Italy: Cadavers, Culture, and Science
SC 495	Science Co-op Work Experience III

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 21-28 credits from department list 21-28

General Biology Option (50-55 credits)

Available at the following campuses: Abington, Altoona, Beaver, Berks, Brandywine, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, Schuylkill, Scranton, University Park, York

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
Select one of the following:		6-8
CHEM 202 & CHEM 203	Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry I and Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry II	
CHEM 210 & CHEM 212 & (CHEM 213 or CHEM 213W or CHEM 213M)		

Groups

Select a minimum of 18 credits of 400-level biology courses, with at least 3 credits from each of the following groups (each course may be used to satisfy a requirement in only one group). Moreover, a maximum of 3 credits of BIOL 400, 494, 495, 496 and SC 295, 395, 495 may be used to fulfill the 18 credit minimum in the 400-level biology course requirements.

Plant and Fungi Group:

BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 420	Paleobotany
BIOL 424	Seeds of Change: The Uses of Plants
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 431	Reproductive Biology

BIOL 441	Plant Physiology
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 448	Ecology of Plant Reproduction
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 482	Coastal Biology
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 499A	Tropical Field Ecology
HORT 407	Plant Breeding
HORT 445	Plant Ecology
PPEM 416	Plant Virology: Molecules to Populations
PPEM 427	Mycotoxins: Effects of Fungal Toxins on Human and Animal Health
Evolution Group:	
BIOL 405	Molecular Evolution
BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 418	Biology of Human Infectious Diseases
BIOL 420	Paleobotany
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 427	Evolution
BIOL 428	Population Genetics
BIOL 429	Animal Behavior
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 434	Pathobiology of Emerging Infectious Disease
BIOL 436	Population Ecology and Global Climate Change
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 440	Evolution of Infectious Diseases
BIOL 442	Evolutionary Medicine
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 464	Sociobiology
BIOL 474	Astrobiology
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
ENT 402W	Biology of Animal Parasites
Genetics and Developmental Biology Group:	
BIOL 404	Cellular Mechanisms in Vertebrate Physiology
BIOL 405	Molecular Evolution
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 409	Biology of Aging
BIOL 411	Medical Embryology
BIOL 413	Cell Signaling and Regulation

BIOL 416	Biology of Cancer
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL 426	Developmental Neurobiology
BIOL 428	Population Genetics
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 431	Reproductive Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 445	Molecular Ecology
BIOL 448	Ecology of Plant Reproduction
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 455	Stem Cell Biology and Therapy
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 467	Molecular Basis of Neurological Diseases
BIOL 469	Neurobiology
BMB 450	Microbial/Molecular Genetics
BMB 464	Molecular Medicine
BMB 484	Functional Genomics
HORT 407	Plant Breeding
MICRB 410	Principles of Immunology
Ecology Group:	
BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 412	Ecology of Infectious Diseases
BIOL 415	Ecotoxicology
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 418	Biology of Human Infectious Diseases
BIOL 419	Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 429	Animal Behavior
BIOL 435	Ecology of Lakes and Streams
BIOL 436	Population Ecology and Global Climate Change
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 445	Molecular Ecology
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 448	Ecology of Plant Reproduction
BIOL 450W	Experimental Field Biology
BIOL 463	General Ecology
BIOL 464	Sociobiology
BIOL 482	Coastal Biology
BIOL 483	Coastal Biology Travel Experience
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 489	Biology of Ecohealth in Tanzania
BIOL 499A	Tropical Field Ecology
ENT 402W	Biology of Animal Parasites
Physiology Group:	
BIOL 404	Cellular Mechanisms in Vertebrate Physiology
BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 409	Biology of Aging
BIOL 411	Medical Embryology

BIOL 413	Cell Signaling and Regulation
BIOL 415	Ecotoxicology
BIOL 416	Biology of Cancer
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 424	Seeds of Change: The Uses of Plants
BIOL 426	Developmental Neurobiology
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 431	Reproductive Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 437	Histology
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 465	Network analysis of biological systems
BIOL 469	Neurobiology
BIOL 470	Functional and Integrative Neuroscience
BIOL 472	Human Physiology
BIOL 475	Human Pathophysiology
BIOL 476	Advanced Human Anatomy - cadaver based
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 479	General Endocrinology
Practicum Group:	
BIOL 400	Teaching in Biology
BIOL 402W	Biological Experimental Design
BIOL 403	Biological Writing and Communication for Research
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 419	Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 437	Histology
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 440	Evolution of Infectious Diseases
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 450W	Experimental Field Biology
BIOL/BIOTC 459	Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology
BIOL 461	Contemporary Issues in Science and Medicine
BIOL 465	Network analysis of biological systems
BIOL 473	Laboratory in Mammalian Physiology
BIOL 476	Advanced Human Anatomy - cadaver based
BIOL 477	Biology Cadaver Dissection
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 483	Coastal Biology Travel Experience
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 489	Biology of Ecohealth in Tanzania
BIOL 495	Internship in Biology

BIOL 496	Independent Studies
BIOL 499A	Tropical Field Ecology
BMB 442	Laboratory in Proteins, Nucleic Acids, and Molecular Cloning
PPEM 427	Mycotoxins: Effects of Fungal Toxins on Human and Animal Health
SC 220	Principles and Strategies for Effective STEM Learning I
SC 295	Science Co-op Work Experience I
SC 395	Science Co-op Work Experience II
SC 475N	Anatomy in Italy: Cadavers, Culture, and Science
SC 495	Science Co-op Work Experience III

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 24-31 credits from department list	24-31
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Genetics and Developmental Biology Option (50-55 credits)

Available at the following campuses: Abington, Berks, Harrisburg, University Park, York

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
BIOL 322	Genetic Analysis	3
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology	3
CHEM 210	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 212	Organic Chemistry II	3
Additional Courses		
BMB 401	General Biochemistry	3
or BMB 401H	General Biochemistry	
BMB 402	General Biochemistry	3
or BMB 402H	General Biochemistry	
Select 2 credits from the following:		2
CHEM 213	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry	
CHEM 213M	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry - Honors, Writing Intensive	
CHEM 213W	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry - Writing Intensive	
Select 2-5 credits from the following:		2-5
MATH 220	Matrices	
MATH 231	Calculus of Several Variables	
MATH 240	Mathematical Methods for Biology and the Life Sciences	
MICRB 201	Introductory Microbiology	
MICRB 202	Introductory Microbiology Laboratory	

Groups

Select a minimum of 12 credits of 400-level courses, with at least 6 credits from the Genetics and Developmental Biology group, 3 credits from Evolution, and 3 credits from the Practicum group. A maximum of 3 credits of BIOL 400, 494, 495, 496 and SC 295, 395, 495 may be used to fulfill the 12 credit minimum in the 400-level biology course requirements.	12
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Genetics and Developmental Biology Group:

BIOL 404	Cellular Mechanisms in Vertebrate Physiology
BIOL 405	Molecular Evolution
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 409	Biology of Aging
BIOL 411	Medical Embryology

BIOL 413	Cell Signaling and Regulation
BIOL 416	Biology of Cancer
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL 426	Developmental Neurobiology
BIOL 428	Population Genetics
BIOL 431	Reproductive Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 448	Ecology of Plant Reproduction
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 455	Stem Cell Biology and Therapy
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 467	Molecular Basis of Neurological Diseases
BIOL 469	Neurobiology
A maximum of 3 credits may be chosen from:	
BMB 400	Molecular Biology of the Gene
BMB 450	Microbial/Molecular Genetics
BMB 464	Molecular Medicine
BMB 484	Functional Genomics
HORT 407	Plant Breeding
MICRB 410	Principles of Immunology
Evolution Group:	
BIOL 405	Molecular Evolution
BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 418	Biology of Human Infectious Diseases
BIOL 420	Paleobotany
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 427	Evolution
BIOL 428	Population Genetics
BIOL 429	Animal Behavior
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 434	Pathobiology of Emerging Infectious Disease
BIOL 436	Population Ecology and Global Climate Change
BIOL 440	Evolution of Infectious Diseases
BIOL 442	Evolutionary Medicine
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 464	Sociobiology
BIOL 474	Astrobiology
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY

BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
ENT 402W	Biology of Animal Parasites
Practicum Group:	
BIOL 400	Teaching in Biology
BIOL 402W	Biological Experimental Design
BIOL 403	Biological Writing and Communication for Research
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 419	Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 437	Histology
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 450W	Experimental Field Biology
BIOL/BIOTC 459	Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology
BIOL 461	Contemporary Issues in Science and Medicine
BIOL 473	Laboratory in Mammalian Physiology
BIOL 476	Advanced Human Anatomy - cadaver based
BIOL 477	Biology Cadaver Dissection
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 483	Coastal Biology Travel Experience
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 489	Biology of Ecohealth in Tanzania
BIOL 494	Research Project
BIOL 495	Internship in Biology
BIOL 496	Independent Studies
BIOL 499A	Tropical Field Ecology
BMB 442	Laboratory in Proteins, Nucleic Acids, and Molecular Cloning
PPEM 427	Mycotoxins: Effects of Fungal Toxins on Human and Animal Health
SC 220	Principles and Strategies for Effective STEM Learning I
SC 295	Science Co-op Work Experience I
SC 395	Science Co-op Work Experience II
SC 475N	Anatomy in Italy: Cadavers, Culture, and Science
SC 495	Science Co-op Work Experience III

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 13-21 credits from department list 13-21

Neuroscience Option (50-55 credits)*Available at the following campuses: University Park*

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
BIOL 469	Neurobiology	3
BMB 401	General Biochemistry	3

BMB 402	General Biochemistry	3
CHEM 210	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 212	Organic Chemistry II	3

Additional Courses

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

BIOL 426	Developmental Neurobiology
BIOL 470	Functional and Integrative Neuroscience
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY

Select 2 credits from the following: 2

CHEM 213	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry
CHEM 213M	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry - Honors, Writing Intensive
CHEM 213W	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry - Writing Intensive

Groups

Select a minimum of 12 credits of 400-level biology courses, with at least 6 credits from the Neuroscience group, 3 credits from the Evolution group, and 3 credits from the Practicum Group. A maximum of 3 credits of BIOL 400, 494, 495, 496 and SC 295, 395, 495 may be used to fulfill the 12 credit minimum in the 400-level biology course requirements. 12

Neuroscience Group:

BIOL 404	Cellular Mechanisms in Vertebrate Physiology
BIOL 413	Cell Signaling and Regulation
BIOL 424	Seeds of Change: The Uses of Plants
BIOL 426	Developmental Neurobiology
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 467	Molecular Basis of Neurological Diseases
BIOL 470	Functional and Integrative Neuroscience
BIOL 472	Human Physiology
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 479	General Endocrinology

A maximum of 3 credits may be chosen from:

BBH 432	Biobehavioral Aspects of Stress
BBH 451	Pharmacological Influences on Health
BBH 468	Neuroanatomical Bases for Disorders of Behavior and Health
NUTR 445	Energy and Macronutrient Metabolism
PSYCH 452	Learning and Memory
PSYCH 462	Physiological Psychology
PSYCH 478	Clinical Neuropsychology

Evolution Group:

BIOL 405	Molecular Evolution
BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 418	Biology of Human Infectious Diseases
BIOL 420	Paleobotany
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 427	Evolution
BIOL 428	Population Genetics

BIOL 429	Animal Behavior
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 434	Pathobiology of Emerging Infectious Disease
BIOL 436	Population Ecology and Global Climate Change
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 440	Evolution of Infectious Diseases
BIOL 442	Evolutionary Medicine
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 464	Sociobiology
BIOL 474	Astrobiology
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
ENT 402W	Biology of Animal Parasites
Practicum Group:	
BIOL 400	Teaching in Biology
BIOL 402W	Biological Experimental Design
BIOL 403	Biological Writing and Communication for Research
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 419	Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 437	Histology
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 450W	Experimental Field Biology
BIOL/BIOTC 459	Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology
BIOL 461	Contemporary Issues in Science and Medicine
BIOL 465	Network analysis of biological systems
BIOL 473	Laboratory in Mammalian Physiology
BIOL 476	Advanced Human Anatomy - cadaver based
BIOL 477	Biology Cadaver Dissection
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 483	Coastal Biology Travel Experience
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 489	Biology of Ecohealth in Tanzania
BIOL 494	Research Project
BIOL 495	Internship in Biology
BIOL 496	Independent Studies
BMB 442	Laboratory in Proteins, Nucleic Acids, and Molecular Cloning

PPEM 427	Mycotoxins: Effects of Fungal Toxins on Human and Animal Health
SC 220	Principles and Strategies for Effective STEM Learning I
SC 295	Science Co-op Work Experience I
SC 395	Science Co-op Work Experience II
SC 475N	Anatomy in Italy: Cadavers, Culture, and Science
SC 495	Science Co-op Work Experience III

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 18-23 credits from department list 18-23

Plant Biology Option (50-55 credits)

Available at the following campuses: University Park

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy	3
BIOL 441	Plant Physiology	3
BMB 401	General Biochemistry	3
BMB 402	General Biochemistry	3
CHEM 210	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 212	Organic Chemistry II	3

Additional Courses

Select 2 credits from the following: 2

CHEM 213	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry
CHEM 213M	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry - Honors, Writing Intensive
CHEM 213W	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry - Writing Intensive

Groups

Select a minimum of 12 credits of 400-level biology courses, with at least 6 credits from the Plant and Fungi group, 3 credits from the Evolution group, and 3 credits from the Practicum group. A maximum of 3 credits of BIOL 400, 494, 495, 496 and SC 295, 395, 495 may be used to fulfill the 12 credit minimum in the 400-level biology course requirements. 12

Plant and Fungi Group:

BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 420	Paleobotany
BIOL 424	Seeds of Change: The Uses of Plants
BIOL 431	Reproductive Biology
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 448	Ecology of Plant Reproduction
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 459	Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology
BIOL 482	Coastal Biology
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 499A	Tropical Field Ecology
A maximum of 3 credits may be chosen from:	
HORT 407	Plant Breeding
HORT 445	Plant Ecology
PPEM 416	Plant Virology: Molecules to Populations
PPEM 427	Mycotoxins: Effects of Fungal Toxins on Human and Animal Health

Evolution Group:

BIOL 405	Molecular Evolution
BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 418	Biology of Human Infectious Diseases
BIOL 420	Paleobotany
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 427	Evolution
BIOL 428	Population Genetics
BIOL 429	Animal Behavior
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 434	Pathobiology of Emerging Infectious Disease
BIOL 436	Population Ecology and Global Climate Change
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 440	Evolution of Infectious Diseases
BIOL 442	Evolutionary Medicine
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 464	Sociobiology
BIOL 474	Astrobiology
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
ENT 402W	Biology of Animal Parasites

Practicum Group:

BIOL 400	Teaching in Biology
BIOL 402W	Biological Experimental Design
BIOL 403	Biological Writing and Communication for Research
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 419	Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 437	Histology
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 450W	Experimental Field Biology
BIOL 461	Contemporary Issues in Science and Medicine
BIOL 465	Network analysis of biological systems
BIOL 473	Laboratory in Mammalian Physiology

BIOL 476	Advanced Human Anatomy - cadaver based
BIOL 477	Biology Cadaver Dissection
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 483	Coastal Biology Travel Experience
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 489	Biology of Ecohealth in Tanzania
BIOL 494	Research Project
BIOL 495	Internship in Biology
BIOL 496	Independent Studies
BIOL 499A	Tropical Field Ecology
BMB 442	Laboratory in Proteins, Nucleic Acids, and Molecular Cloning
PPEM 427	Mycotoxins: Effects of Fungal Toxins on Human and Animal Health
SC 220	Principles and Strategies for Effective STEM Learning I
SC 295	Science Co-op Work Experience I
SC 395	Science Co-op Work Experience II
SC 475N	Anatomy in Italy: Cadavers, Culture, and Science
SC 495	Science Co-op Work Experience III

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 18-23 credits from department list 18-23

Vertebrate Physiology Option (50-55 credits)

Available at the following campuses: Abington, Altoona, Brandywine, University Park

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
BIOL 472	Human Physiology	3
BIOL 473	Laboratory in Mammalian Physiology	2
CHEM 210	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 212	Organic Chemistry II	3
Additional Courses		
BMB 401	General Biochemistry	3
or BMB 401H	General Biochemistry	
BMB 402	General Biochemistry	3
or BMB 402H	General Biochemistry	
CHEM 213	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry	2
or CHEM 213M	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry - Honors, Writing Intensive	
or CHEM 213W	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry - Writing Intensive	
Groups		
Select a minimum of 12 credits of 400-level courses, with at least 6 credits from the Physiology group, 3 credits from the Evolution group, and 3 credits from the Practicum group. A maximum of 3 credits of BIOL 400, 494, 495, 496 and SC 295, 395, 495 may be used to fulfill the 12 credit minimum in the 400-level biology course requirements.		12
Physiology Group:		
BIOL 404	Cellular Mechanisms in Vertebrate Physiology	
BIOL 406	Symbiosis	
BIOL 409	Biology of Aging	
BIOL 411	Medical Embryology	
BIOL 413	Cell Signaling and Regulation	
BIOL 415	Ecotoxicology	

BIOL 416	Biology of Cancer
BIOL 418	Biology of Human Infectious Diseases
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 424	Seeds of Change: The Uses of Plants
BIOL 426	Developmental Neurobiology
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 431	Reproductive Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 437	Histology
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 465	Network analysis of biological systems
BIOL 467	Molecular Basis of Neurological Diseases
BIOL 469	Neurobiology
BIOL 470	Functional and Integrative Neuroscience
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 479	General Endocrinology
A maximum of 3 credits may be chosen from:	
ANSC 431	Physiology of Animal Reproduction
ANTH 466	The Skull
ENT 402W	Biology of Animal Parasites
MICRB 401	Microbial Physiology and Structure
MICRB 410	Principles of Immunology
MICRB 412	Medical Microbiology
MICRB 435	Viral Pathogenesis
PSYCH 462	Physiological Psychology
Evolution Group:	
BIOL 405	Molecular Evolution
BIOL 406	Symbiosis
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 418	Biology of Human Infectious Diseases
BIOL 420	Paleobotany
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL 422	Advanced Genetics
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 427	Evolution
BIOL 428	Population Genetics
BIOL 429	Animal Behavior
BIOL 430	Developmental Biology
BIOL 432	Developmental Genetics
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 434	Pathobiology of Emerging Infectious Disease
BIOL 436	Population Ecology and Global Climate Change
BIOL 440	Evolution of Infectious Diseases
BIOL 442	Evolutionary Medicine
BIOL 443	Evo-devo: Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms
BIOL 446	Physiological Ecology
BIOL 451	Biology of RNA

BIOL 460	Human Genetics
BIOL 460H	Honors Human Genetics
BIOL 464	Sociobiology
BIOL 474	Astrobiology
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
ENT 402W	Biology of Animal Parasites

Practicum Group:

BIOL 400	Teaching in Biology
BIOL 402W	Biological Experimental Design
BIOL 403	Biological Writing and Communication for Research
BIOL 407	Plant Developmental Anatomy
BIOL 414	Taxonomy of Seed Plants
BIOL 417	Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 419	Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving
BIOL 421	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates
BIOL/PPEM 425	Biology of Fungi
BIOL 433	Evolution of Vertebrates
BIOL 437	Histology
BIOL 439	Practical Bioinformatics
BIOL 444	Field Ecology
BIOL 448	Ecology of Plant Reproduction
BIOL 450W	Experimental Field Biology
BIOL 461	Contemporary Issues in Science and Medicine
BIOL 465	Network analysis of biological systems
BIOL 473	Laboratory in Mammalian Physiology
BIOL 476	Advanced Human Anatomy - cadaver based
BIOL 477	Biology Cadaver Dissection
BIOL 478	HUMAN NEUROANATOMY
BIOL 483	Coastal Biology Travel Experience
BIOL 484	Biodiversity of Pennsylvania
BIOL 489	Biology of Ecohealth in Tanzania
BIOL 494	Research Project
BIOL 495	Internship in Biology
BIOL 496	Independent Studies
BMB 442	Laboratory in Proteins, Nucleic Acids, and Molecular Cloning
PPEM 427	Mycotoxins: Effects of Fungal Toxins on Human and Animal Health
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SC 395	Science Co-op Work Experience II
SC 475N	Anatomy in Italy: Cadavers, Culture, and Science
SC 495	Science Co-op Work Experience III

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 19-24 credits from department list 19-24

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in

interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- **United States Cultures:** 3 credits
- **International Cultures:** 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits.

Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.