Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.


Before the fifth semester begins: BIOL:1412 Diversity of Form and Function, STAT:2010 Statistical Methods and Computing or STAT:3510 Biostatistics, and four other courses in the major.

Before the seventh semester begins: BIOL:2512 Fundamental Genetics, BIOL:2723 Cell Biology, BIOL:3172 Evolution, five or six more courses in the major, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: two or three more courses in the major.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Biology, BA

Course Title Hours
Academic Career
Any Semester
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability
Research: Iowa Lakesides Laboratory summer field courses

First Year
Fall
CHEM:1110 Principles of Chemistry I 4
ENGL:1200 The Interpretation of Literature or RHET:1030 3 - 4
MATH:1460 Calculus for the Biological Sciences 4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences 3
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2

Spring
BIOL:1411 Foundations of Biology 4
CHEM:1120 Principles of Chemistry II 4
ENGL:1200 The Interpretation of Literature or RHET:1030 3 - 4

Second Year
Fall
BIOL:1412 Diversity of Form and Function 4
STAT:3510 or STAT:2010 Biostatistics or Statistical Methods and Computing 3
Major: elective outside biology 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course

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Third Year
Fall
BIOL:2723 Cell Biology 3
BMB:3110 Biochemistry 3
Major: elective outside biology 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course

Fourth Year
Fall
Major: biological systems requirement I 3
Major: biology elective 3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts 3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues 3
Elective course 3

Spring
Major: course with a laboratory requirement 4 - 6
Major: genes and genomes requirement 3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture 3
Elective course 3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Total Hours 113-121

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.
b. After completing BIOL:1412 Diversity of Form & Function, students are eligible to enroll in Lakeside Laboratory summer field courses. Registration for these courses is in winter of each year.

c. Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.

d. Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.

e. GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

f. Students complete 12 s.h. of coursework outside the Department of Biology by choosing courses from an approved list.

g. Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

h. See General Catalog for list of approved courses.

i. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

j. Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.