Biology, BA

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
--- | --- | ---
Any Semester
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability
Research: Iowa Lakeside Laboratory summer field courses

Hours | 0
--- | ---

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

Hours | 16-17
--- | ---

Spring
BIOL:1411 | Foundations of Biology | 4
CHEM:1120 | Principles of Chemistry II | 4
RHET:1030 | Rhetoric | 3 - 4
or ENGL:1200 | or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion | 3

Hours | 14-15
--- | ---

Second Year
Fall
BIOL:1412 | Diversity of Form and Function | 4
STAT:2010 | Statistical Methods and Computing | 3
or STAT:3510 | or Biostatistics | 3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency | 4 - 5
or elective course | 4 - 5

Hours | 14-15
--- | ---

Spring
BIOL:2723 | Cell Biology | 3
Major: elective outside biology | 3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5

Hours | 13-14
--- | ---

Third Year
Fall
BIOL:2512 | Fundamental Genetics | 4
BMB:3110 | Biochemistry | 3
Major: elective outside biology | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5

Hours | 14-15
--- | ---

Spring
BIOL:3172 | Evolution | 4
Major: biological systems requirement I | 3
Major: elective outside biology | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5

Hours | 14-15
--- | ---

Fourth Year
Fall
Major: biological systems requirement II | 3
Major: biology elective I | 3
Major: elective outside biology | 3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues | 3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture | 3

Hours | 15
--- | ---

Spring
Major: course with a laboratory requirement | 4 - 6
Major: genes and genomes requirement | 3
Major: biology elective II | 3
Elective course | 3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Hours | 13-15
--- | ---

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 who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

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

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 Graduation Services.