Biology, B.A.

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.

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

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

Spring
BIOL:1411 Foundations of Biology 4
CHEM:1120 Principles of Chemistry II 4

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

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

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

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

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

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) 3

Total Hours 113-121

Notes:
- 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...
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 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.

i 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.