Biology Major, B.A.

Contact Information
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Biology is the study of life from both basic and applied perspectives across a broad range of analytical levels, from the molecule and cell to the organism and ecosystem. The major in biology provides a broad education directed toward an appreciation of the complexity of nature and prepares students for careers in the biological, environmental, and medical sciences. This program is designed to provide greater flexibility than the B.S. degree in meeting broad student interests.

Department Programs

Majors

• Biology Major, B.S. (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/biology-major-bs)
• Biology Major, B.S.–Quantitative Biology Track (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/biology-major-bs-quantitative-biology-track)
• Biology Major, B.A. (p. 1)

Minor

• Biology Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/biology-minor)

Graduate Programs

• M.A. in Biology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/biology)
• M.S. in Biology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/biology)
• Ph.D. in Biology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/biology)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the biology (B.A., B.S.) program, students should be able to:

• Knowledge Base: Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in the broad field of Biology
• Research Methods: Apply basic research methods in the biological sciences, including research design, data analysis, and data interpretation
• Critical Thinking Skills: Demonstrate the use of critical and creative thinking skills in upper-level biology courses and in their approach to undergraduate research
• Application of Knowledge, Research Methods, and Critical Thinking: Apply knowledge of the field of biology, research skills, and critical thinking skills to undertake a course-based, field, or laboratory research project

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must

• attain a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
• complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
• take at least half of their major course requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
• earn a minimum of 18 hours of C or better in the major core requirements (some majors require 21 hours).

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext).

Code Title Hours

Gateway Course
BIOL 101 Principles of Biology 4
& 101L and Introductory Biology Laboratory

Core Requirements

Core Courses:
BIOL 201 Ecology and Evolution H 4
BIOL 202 Molecular Biology and Genetics H 4
BIOL 205 Cellular and Developmental Biology H 4

One organismal structure and diversity course chosen from: 3

BIOL 271 Plant Biology 4
& 271L and Plant Biology Laboratory

BIOL 272 Local Flora

BIOL 273 Horticulture

BIOL 274 Plant Diversity & 274L and Plant Diversity Laboratory

BIOL 277 Vertebrate Field Zoology & 277L and Vertebrate Field Zoology Laboratory

BIOL 278 Animal Behavior & 278L and Animal Behavior Laboratory

BIOL 279 Seminar in Organismal Biology & 279L and Topics in Organismal Biology Laboratory

BIOL 422 Microbiology & BIOL 421L or Microbiology Laboratory with Research
or BIOL 422 Microbiology & 422L and Microbiology Laboratory

BIOL 441 Vertebrate Embryology & 441L and Vertebrate Embryology Laboratory
Biology Major, B.A.

| BIOL 451 & 451L | Comparative Physiology and Comparative Physiology Laboratory |
| BIOL 471 & 471L | Evolutionary Mechanisms and Evolutionary Mechanisms Laboratory |
| BIOL 472 | Introduction to Plant Taxonomy |
| BIOL 474 & 474L | Evolution of Vertebrate Life and Vertebrate Structure and Evolution Laboratory H |
| BIOL 475 & 475L | Biology of Marine Animals and Biology of Marine Animals Laboratory |
| BIOL 476 & 476L | Avian Biology and Avian Biology Laboratory |
| BIOL 479 & 479L | Topics in Organismal Biology at an Advanced Level and Organismal Biology: Advanced Topics |
| BIOL 579 | Organismal Structure and Diversity in the Southern Appalachian Mountains |

Three biology electives (each of three or more credits) numbered above 205 (not including BIOL 213, BIOL 253, BIOL 291, BIOL 292, BIOL 293, BIOL 294, BIOL 296, BIOL 353, and BIOL 495), at least one with a laboratory 3,4

Additional Requirements

| CHEM 101 & 101L | General Descriptive Chemistry I and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory I S |
| CHEM 102 & 102L | General Descriptive Chemistry II and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory II H |

One of:

- COMP 110 Introduction to Programming H
- COMP 116 Introduction to Scientific Programming
- MATH 130 Precalculus Mathematics
- MATH 152 Calculus for Business and Social Sciences
- MATH 231 Calculus of Functions of One Variable I H
- MATH 241 BioCalculus I
- STOR 155 Introduction to Data Models and Inference
- STOR 215 Foundations of Decision Sciences

Four additional allied science electives chosen from the course list 12-17 below

Students must fulfill all General Education requirements, including 61-67 Supplemental General Education (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements), and enough electives to complete 120 hours required for graduation.

Total Hours 120

H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

1 With a C grade or better in BIOL 101
2 Minimum of C- in BIOL 202 required for enrollment
3 At least one course out of the four courses (three electives and one organismal course) must be numbered above 400 (not including BIOL 501 and BIOL 692H).
4 A total of six hours from BIOL 295 (inactivated fall 2017), BIOL 395, and/or BIOL 692H count as a laboratory course requirement. One additional elective may consist of a total of three hours of courses numbered above 600 (not including BIOL 692H).

Allied Science Electives

All allied science elective courses need to have a minimum of three credit hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 143</td>
<td>Human Evolution and Adaptation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 148</td>
<td>Human Origins</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 298</td>
<td>Biological Anthropology Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 315</td>
<td>Human Genetics and Evolution</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 317</td>
<td>Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Adaptation and Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 318</td>
<td>Human Growth and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 412</td>
<td>Paleoanthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 414</td>
<td>Laboratory Methods: Human Osteology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 415</td>
<td>Laboratory Methods: Zooarchaeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 416</td>
<td>Bioarchaeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 470</td>
<td>Medicine and Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 623</td>
<td>Human Disease Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTR ---</td>
<td>Any ASTR course above 99</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL ---</td>
<td>Any BIOL course above 101, except BIOL 213, BIOL 291, BIOL 292, BIOL 294, BIOL 296, and BIOL 495</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS ---</td>
<td>Any BIOS course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMME 510</td>
<td>Biomaterials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM ---</td>
<td>Any CHEM course above 101</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP ---</td>
<td>Any COMP course above 100, except COMP 380</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENEC 202</td>
<td>Introduction to the Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENEC 256</td>
<td>Mountain Biodiversity</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENEC 403</td>
<td>Environmental Chemistry Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENEC 406</td>
<td>Atmospheric Processes II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENEC 410</td>
<td>Earth Processes in Environmental Systems</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENEC 411</td>
<td>Oceanic Processes in Environmental Systems</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENEC 415</td>
<td>Environmental Systems Modeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENEC 471</td>
<td>Human Impacts on Estuarine Ecosystems</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENEC 489</td>
<td>Ecological Processes in Environmental Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXSS 175</td>
<td>Human Anatomy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXSS 276</td>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 110</td>
<td>The Blue Planet: An Introduction to Earth's Environmental Systems H</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 111</td>
<td>Weather and Climate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 212</td>
<td>Environmental Conservation and Global Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 222</td>
<td>Health and Medical Geography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 253</td>
<td>Introduction to Atmospheric Processes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL ---</td>
<td>Any GEOL course above 100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC ---</td>
<td>Any MASC course above 100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH ---</td>
<td>Any MATH course above 110, except MATH 129P</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCRB 251</td>
<td>Introductory Medical Microbiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCI 175</td>
<td>Introduction to Neuroscience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCI 222</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCI 225</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception H</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCI 401</td>
<td>Animal Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majors

Suggested Program of Study for B.A.

offered every term.

entering UNC–Chapel Hill in the fall term. Some courses may not be

plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students

minor, etc.). Students should meet with their academic advisor to create

may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major,

completion within the expected eight semesters. The actual degree plan

Sample plans can be used as a guide to identify the courses required

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans can be used as a guide to identify the courses required
to complete the major and other requirements needed for degree
completion within the expected eight semesters. The actual degree plan
differ depending on the course of study selected (second major,
minor, etc.). Students should meet with their academic advisor to create
degree plan that is specific and unique to their interests. The sample
plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students
entering UNC–Chapel Hill in the fall term. Some courses may not be
offered every term.

Suggested Program of Study for B.A. Majors

Course    Title                     Hours
First Year
BIOL 101  Principles of Biology           4
& 101L    and Introductory Biology Laboratory ^H  3
CHEM 101  General Descriptive Chemistry I   4
& 101L    and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory I  3
CHEM 102  General Descriptive Chemistry II  4
& 102L    and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory II ^H  3
ENGL 105  English Composition and Rhetoric  3
Language levels 2 and 3                         6
Foundations quantitative reasoning requirement as specified in requirements  3
Lifetime fitness                               1
Electives                                       6
Hours                                           31

Sophomore Year

Two of the three biology core courses:

BIOL 201  Ecology and Evolution ^H        8
BIOL 202  Molecular Biology and Genetics ^H 5
BIOL 205  Cellular and Developmental Biology ^H 3
Natural sciences electives (two courses)     6

Approaches (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) and Connections (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) (four courses)

Elective                                           3
Hours                                               29

Junior Year

Remaining biology core course                     4
Organismal biology course                         4
Biology electives (two courses)                   7
Natural sciences electives (two courses)          6
Approaches (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) and Connections (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) (two courses)

Supplemental General Education

Supplemental General Education (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) requirement or free electives (two courses)  6

Hours                                               33

Senior Year

Biology electives (two courses)                   6
Approaches (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) and Connections (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) (one course)  3
Supplemental General Education

Supplemental General Education (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) requirement and free electives as needed to complete 120 academic hours and other requirements  18

Hours                                               27

Total Hours                                         120

^H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same
requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment
and GPA restrictions may apply.

Special Opportunities in Biology

Students are encouraged to speak with their advisor about opportunities
to serve as peer advisors in the Health Professions Advising Office, or to
join Tri-Beta, the National Biological Sciences Honor Society.

Honors in Biology

Candidates for honors or highest honors must secure approval from the
departmental honors advisor. They must have three hours of BIOL 395,
take BIOL 692H, and maintain a grade point average of 3.3, both overall
and in biology courses (exclusive of BIOL 692H and including only one
semester of BIOL 395), calculated at the end of the semester preceding
the semester in which they graduate. Other requirements are detailed on
the department Web site (http://bio.unc.edu/undergraduate/honors-info).

Experiential Education

After completing BIOL 201 or BIOL 202, students are encouraged to
consider how they plan to meet the experiential education requirement.
BIOL 293 and BIOL 395 fulfill this requirement and also connect students’
academic coursework to current biological research and inquiry.
UNC–BEST
The UNC Baccalaureate Education in Science and Teaching (UNC–BEST) Program is a collaboration between the School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences and is designed to allow undergraduate science majors interested in teaching high school science the opportunity to earn their science degree and obtain licensure as a North Carolina high school science teacher in four years. UNC–BEST students meet all the degree requirements for their biology degree using BIOL 410 as one of their upper-level biology courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 410</td>
<td>Principles and Methods of Teaching Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 689</td>
<td>Foundations of Special Education (may substitute EDUC 516)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 532</td>
<td>Human Development and Learning (may substitute EDUC 403)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 615</td>
<td>Schools and Community Collaboration (may substitute EDUC 533)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 593</td>
<td>Internship/Student Teaching</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 601</td>
<td>Education Workshops</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details on admission requirements, application deadlines, and submitting an online application, visit the program’s Web site (http://soe.unc.edu/academics/uncbest) or catalog description (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/schools-college/education/#licensuretext).

Laboratory Teaching Apprenticeships and Assistantships
Opportunities exist for assisting graduate instructors (and for instruction in undergraduate laboratories). Interested students should contact the instructor of the course or obtain approval from either the departmental director of undergraduate studies or the department chair.

Undergraduate Awards
All awards include a personal plaque, a monetary gift, and a place on Coker Hall’s list of department honorees. The awards include

- The Stephen G. Brantley Award in honor of Henry Van Peters Wilson, given annually to a senior biology major for excellence in research in molecular and cellular biology.
- The Robert Ervin Coker Award, given annually to a senior biology major for excellence in research in organismal biology and ecology.
- The John N. Couch Award, given annually to a senior biology major with interests in plant biology who has demonstrated the highest ideals of scholarship and research.
- The Irvine R. Hagadorn Award, given annually to the junior biology major based on academic and research excellence. This award is also recognized by the UNC–Chapel Hill chancellor at the Annual Chancellor's Awards Ceremony.
- The Francis J. LeClair Award, given annually to a senior biology major for academic excellence in biology with an emphasis in plant sciences.

Undergraduate Research
An undergraduate research experience is extremely valuable to a student who intends to pursue postgraduate work in the biological sciences. Undergraduates may participate directly in the research of faculty in the Department of Biology. This research opportunity allows students to put their knowledge of biology into practice through participation in a biological research program and is encouraged by faculty. Students’ participation in research can begin as early as their second year by registration in BIOL 395.

Undergraduates with a 2.0 grade point average or higher in biology courses are encouraged to enroll in BIOL 395. Information concerning the procedure for enrolling in a research course can be obtained from the chair of the department’s undergraduate honors research program. Additional information can be found on the department’s Web site (http://bio.unc.edu/undergraduate/research).