

Biology Degree Requirements 2020-2021

Biology Major at Iowa State University

Have Questions About the Biology Major?
Visit Student Services in 103 Bessey Hall
or call 515-294-1064

Obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Iowa State University requires the completion of 120 credits total. Up to 65 semester hours (97 quarter hours) earned at two-year colleges can be applied, as can courses taken at other 4-year institutions. All students must maintain a 2.0 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA) to complete a degree. The final 32 credits of coursework must be taken at Iowa State.

Students are ultimately responsible for all issues concerning the satisfactory completion of degree requirements, and should be aware that many professions require specific courses that may go above and beyond the minimum degree requirements of the Biology Program.

University Requirements

Course #	Course Name	Credits	FYI...
ENGL 150	Critical Thinking and Communication	3	A grade of C or higher is required in ENGL 150, ENGL 250, and the advanced communications course.
ENGL 250	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition	3	
(variable)	Advanced Communications (determined by major/college)	3	
LIB 160	Information Literacy	1	International Perspectives and U.S. Diversity are frequently double-counted with college-level degree requirements
(variable)	International Perspectives	3	
(variable)	U.S. Diversity	3	

Additional information about University requirements can be found at (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/collegescurricula/>); details about English requirements, including test-out and placement, at (<http://www.engl.iastate.edu/isucomm/>); and lists of approved courses that meet International Perspectives and U.S. Diversity at (<http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/students/div-ip-guide>).

College Requirements

Students may major in biology either through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) or the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (AgLS). The differences in requirements are as follows:

	LAS Requirement	AgLS Requirement
Foreign Language	101/102 college level -or- 3+ years in high school	none required
Advanced Comm.	writing (ENGL 302 to 316) or speech (SP CM 212)	speech (e.g., SP CM 212)
Math	mathematics and/or statistics	mathematics AND statistics
Science	natural sciences	biological and physical sciences
Arts & Humanities	12 credits (~4 courses)	3 credits (~1 course)
Social Sciences	9 credits (~3 courses)	3 credits (~1 course)
Ethics	none required	3 credits (~1 course)

LAS also requires 45 credits of 300-level coursework, all but 7 of which are met by completing minimum requirements of the biology major. Lists of approved courses that meet the general education requirements for the two colleges can be found at: (<http://www.las.iastate.edu/students/academics/general-education/>) and (<https://www.cals.iastate.edu/student-services/home>) for LAS and AgLS, respectively.

Biology Major Requirements

Students must have at least a 2.0 GPA for the biology core and the advanced biology areas of the major.

Biology Core

Course #	Course Name	Credits
BIOL 110 -or- BIOL 112	Introduction to Biology -or- Transfer Student Orientation	1
BIOL 111	Opportunities in Biology	0.5
BIOL 211 & BIOL 211L	Principles of Biology I & Lab	4
BIOL 212 & BIOL 212L	Principles of Biology II & Lab	4
BIOL 312	Ecology (with lab)	4
BIOL 313 & BIOL 313L	Principles of Genetics & Lab	4
BIOL 314	Principles of Molecular Cell Biology	3
BIOL 315	Biological Evolution	3

Advanced Biology

Select 21 credits of coursework from the approved list (see pages 3 and 4). At least 9 of these credits must be from BIOL, EEOB, or GDCB course offerings, and 2 courses must include a laboratory/field component.

Complementary or Supporting Science Requirements

Mathematics

Students must complete two semesters of calculus and/or statistics. Appropriate sequences depend on career interests and choice of college. Biology majors in LAS may opt to take calculus or statistics only, while biology majors in AgLS must take one statistics course and one math course (typically calculus).

	Mathematics Courses	Statistics Courses	Credits
<i>Statistics Only (LAS)</i>	<i>none (LAS option ONLY)</i>	STAT 101 or STAT 104, & STAT 301	7 to 8
<i>Calculus Only (LAS)</i>	MATH 165 & MATH 166	<i>none (LAS option ONLY)</i>	8
<i>Calc & Stat (LAS or AgLS)</i>	MATH 160 or MATH 165	STAT 101 or STAT 104	7 to 8
<i>Non-Calc (AgLS)</i>	any AgLS approved math	STAT 101 or STAT 104, & STAT 301	7 to 8

Chemistry

Biology majors must complete at least one semester of general chemistry (with lab), one semester of organic chemistry (with lab), and one semester of biochemistry. Several sub-disciplines of biology will require more than the minimum, and students should speak with their advisors for more information.

	General Chem	Organic Chem	Biochemistry	Credits
<i>Minimum Sequence</i>	CHEM 163 & 163L	CHEM 231 & 231L	BBMB 316	12
<i>Advanced Sequence</i>	CHEM 177 & 177L -and- CHEM 178 & 178L	CHEM 331 & 331L -and- CHEM 332 & 332L	BBMB 420 -or- BBMB 404/405	20 to 23

Physics

One semester of physics is required for biology. Some career paths may require a year of physics.

	Courses	Credits
<i>Single Semester Physics</i>	PHYS 115 & PHYS 115L	5
<i>Full Year Physics (algebra-based)</i>	PHYS 111 & PHYS 112	10
<i>Full Year Physics (calculus-based)</i>	PHYS 221 & PHYS 232+L	10

Approved Advanced Biology Courses

Biology Program at Iowa State University

Course offerings vary by semester; check the catalog and classes.iastate.edu

Course #	Biology Course Name	Credits	Course #	Biology Course Name	Credits
BIOL 322	Intro Bioinformatics and Comp. Bio	3	BIOL 444	Bioinformatic Analysis	4
BIOL 328	Mole. & Cell. Bio of Human Disease	3	BIOL 451 •	Plant Evolution & Phylogeny	4
BIOL 335	Human & Animal Physiology	3	BIOL 454 •	Plant Anatomy	4
BIOL 335L •	Human & Animal Physiology Lab	1	BIOL 455 •	Bryophyte and Lichen Biodiversity	3
BIOL 336	Ecological & Evolutionary Animal Phys	3	BIOL 456 •	Principles of Mycology	3
BIOL 344	Human Reproduction	3	BIOL 457	Herpetology	2
BIOL 349 •	Genome Perspective in Biology	3	BIOL 457L •	Herpetology Lab	1
BIOL 350 •	Comprehensive Human Anatomy	4	BIOL 458	Ornithology	2
BIOL 351 •	Comparative Chordate Anatomy	5	BIOL 458L •	Ornithology Lab	1
BIOL 352 •	Vertebrate Histology	4	BIOL 459	Mammalogy	2
BIOL 353 •	Introductory Parasitology	3	BIOL 459L •	Mammalogy Lab	1
BIOL 354	Animal Behavior	3	BIOL 462	Evolutionary Genetics	3
BIOL 354L •	Animal Behavior Lab	1	BIOL 464	Wetland Ecology	3
BIOL 355	Plants and People	3	BIOL 465	Macroevolution	3
BIOL 356 •	Dendrology	4	BIOL 471	Introductory Conservation Biology	3
BIOL 357	Biology of Plants	3	BIOL 472	Community Ecology	3
BIOL 364	Invertebrate Biology	3-4	BIOL 474	Plant Ecology	3
BIOL 365 •	Vertebrate Biology	4	BIOL 476	Functional Ecology	3
BIOL 366 •	Plant Systematics	4	BIOL 480 •	Studies in Marine Biology	1-8
BIOL 370 •	GIS for Ecology and Env't Science	1-6	BIOL 481 •	Summer Field Studies	1-8
BIOL 371 •	Ecological Methods	3	BIOL 482 •	Tropical Biology	1-4
BIOL 381	Environmental Systems I	3	BIOL 483	Environmental Biogeochemistry	3
BIOL 382 •	Environmental Systems II	3	BIOL 484	Ecosystem Ecology	3
BIOL 393 •	N. American Field Trips	1-4	BIOL 486	Aquatic Ecology	3
BIOL 394 •	International Field Trips	1-4	BIOL 486L •	Aquatic Ecology Lab	1
BIOL 402	Introduction to Pathology	3	BIOL 487	Microbial Ecology	3
BIOL 414	Life History & Reproductive Strategy	3	BIOL 488 •	Identification of Aquatic Organisms	1
BIOL 420X	Plant Molecular Biology	3	BIOL 489 •	Population Ecology	3
BIOL 423	Developmental Biology	3	BIOL 490	Independent Study	1
BIOL 423L •	Developmental Biology Lab	1	BIOL 491 •	Undergraduate Teaching Experience	1-2
BIOL 428	Cell Biology	3	BIOL 492	Preparing for Grad School in Biology	1
BIOL 430	Principles of Plant Physiology	3	BIOL 494 •	Biology Internship	1-3
BIOL 434	Endocrinology	3	BIOL 495	Undergraduate Seminar (various topics)	1-3
BIOL 436	Neurobiology	3	BIOL 499 •	Undergraduate Research	1-3

Students may apply a maximum of 7 credits of the following: BIOL 480, 481, 490 (2 cr max), 491 (2 cr max), 494, and 499 towards advanced biology. Lab courses are denoted by •. Courses below are graduate level courses open to undergraduates by prerequisite or permission and typically offered alternate semesters.

Course #	Graduate Course Name	Credits	Course #	Graduate Course Name	Credits
EEOB 507	Advanced Animal Behavior	3	EEOB 584	Ecosystem Science	3
EEOB 514	Life History and Reproductive Strategies	3	EEOB 585	Advanced Community Ecology	3
EEOB 531	Conservation Biology	3	EEOB 586	Aquatic Ecology	3
EEOB 534	Endocrinology	3	EEOB 586L •	Aquatic Ecology Lab	1
EEOB 535 •	Restoration Ecology	3	EEOB 587	Microbial Ecology	3
EEOB 546	Computational Skills for Biological Data	3	EEOB 589 •	Population Ecology	3
EEOB 551 •	Plant Evolution and Phylogeny	4	EEOB 590	Special Topics	1-3
EEOB 553	Agrostology	3	EEOB 596	Ecology and Society	3
EEOB 555 •	Bryophyte and Lichen Biodiversity	3	GDCB 510	Transmission Genetics	3
EEOB 558	Ornithology	2	GDCB 511	Molecular Genetics	3
EEOB 559	Mammalogy	2	GDCB 513	Plant Metabolism	2
EEOB 561	Evolutionary and Ecological Genomics	3	GDCB 528	Advances in Molecular Cell Biology	3
EEOB 562	Evolutionary Genetics	3	GDCB 533	Advances in Developmental Biology	3
EEOB 563	Molecular Phylogenetics	3	GDCB 536	Statistical Genetics	4
EEOB 564	Wetland Ecology	3	GDCB 542 •	Intro to Molecular Biology Techniques	1
EEOB 565	Macroevolution	3	GDCB 544	Fundamentals of Bioinformatics	4
EEOB 566	Molecular Evolution	3	GDCB 545	Plant Molecular, Cell and Dev't Biology	3
EEOB 567	Empirical Population Genetics	3	GDCB 556	Cell, Molec. & Dev't Neuroscience	3
EEOB 568 •	Advanced Systematics	3	GDCB 557	Advanced Neuroscience Techniques	3
EEOB 569	Biogeography	3	GDCB 568	Statistical Bioinformatics	3
EEOB 573	Techniques for Biology Teaching	1-2	GDCB 569	Structural Bioinformatics	3
EEOB 576	Functional Ecology	3	GDCB 570	Systems Biology	3
EEOB 577	Concepts in Theoretical Ecol. & Evol.	1	GDCB 585	Fund. of Predictive Plant Phenomics	4
EEOB 581	Environmental Systems I	3-4	GDCB 590	Special Topics	var
EEOB 582 •	Environmental Systems II	3			

This page lists approved advanced biology courses offered by other departments at Iowa State. These courses may have pre-requisites not included in this list that do not count as advanced biology courses.

<u>Agronomy Courses</u>		Credits	<u>Genetics Courses</u>		Credits
AGRON 316	Crop Structure-Function Relationships	3	GEN 340	Human Genetics	3
AGRON 317	Principles of Weed Science	3	GEN 409	Molecular Genetics	3
AGRON 338 •	Seed Science and Technology	3	GEN 410	Analytical Genetics	3
AGRON 354	Soils and Plant Growth	3			
AGRON 354L •	Soils and Plant Growth Lab	1	<u>Geology Courses</u>		Credits
AGRON 421	Introduction to Plant Breeding	3	GEOL 412	Micropaleontology	3
AGRON 485 •	Soil & Environmental Microbiology	3			
<u>Animal Science Courses</u>		Credits	<u>Health Studies Courses</u>		Credits
AN S 313	Exercise Physiology of Animals	2	H S 350	Human Diseases	3
AN S 319	Animal Nutrition	3			
AN S 331	Domestic Animal Reproduction	3	<u>Horticulture Courses</u>		Credits
AN S 332 •	Lab Methods in Animal Reproduction	1	HORT 321	Horticulture Physiology	3
AN S 333	Embryo Transfer & Related Technologies	3	HORT 322 •	Plant Propagation	3
AN S 334 •	Embryo Transfer Laboratory	1			
AN S 337	Lactation	3	<u>Kinesiology Courses</u>		Credits
AN S 345	Growth & Dev't of Domestic Animals	3	KIN 355	Biomechanics	3
AN S 352 •	Genetic Improvem't of Domestic Animals	3	KIN 363	Basic Electrocardiography	2
AN S 419	Advanced Animal Nutrition	2	KIN 472	Neural Basis of Human Movement	3
<u>Anthropology Courses</u>		Credits	<u>Microbiology Courses</u>		Credits
ANTHR 307 •	Biological Anthropology	3	MICRO 302	Biology of Microorganisms	3
ANTHR 319 •	Skeletal Biology	3	MICRO 302L •	Microbiology Lab	1
ANTHR 424 •	Forensic Anthropology	3	MICRO 310	Medical Microbiology	3
ANTHR 438	Primate Evolutionary Ecology & Behavior	3	MICRO 310L •	Medical Microbiology Lab	1
ANTHR 482	Topics in Biological Anthropology	3	MICRO 320	Molecular and Cellular Bacteriology	4
			MICRO 402	Microbial Genetics	3
			MICRO 408	Virology	3
			MICRO 475	Immunology	3
			MICRO 475L •	Immunology Laboratory	1
<u>Biochemistry Courses</u>		Credits	<u>Natural Resource Ecology & Management Courses</u>		Credits
BBMB 405	Biochemistry II	3	A ECL 321 •	Fish Biology	3
BBMB 411 •	Techniques in Biochemical Research	4	A ECL 366 •	Natural History of Iowa Vertebrates	3
BBMB 420	Mammalian Biochemistry	3	A ECL 415 •	Ecol. of Freshwater Inverts/Plants/Algae	3
BBMB 430	Prokaryotic Diversity and Ecology	3	A ECL 418 •	Stream Ecology	3
BBMB 440 •	Microbial Phys, Diversity, & Genetics Lab	4	A ECL 442	Aquaculture	3
			A ECL 454	Principles of Wildlife Disease	3
			FOR 302 •	Silviculture	3
			NREM 301 •	Natural Resource Ecology & Soils	4
			NREM 345 •	Natural Resource Photogrammetry & GIS	3
			NREM 357 •	Midwestern Prairie Plants	1
			NREM 358 •	Forest Herbaceous Layer	1
			NREM 390	Fire Ecology and Management	3
			NREM 407 •	Watershed Management	4
			NREM 446 •	Integrating GPS & GIS for Nat. Res.	3
			NREM 452 •	Ecosystem Management	3
			<u>Plant Pathology Courses</u>		Credits
			PL P 408	Principles of Plant Pathology	3
			PL P 416	Forest Insects & Diseases	3
			PL P 416L •	Forest Insects & Diseases Laboratory	1
			PL P 477	Bacterial-Plant Interactions	3
			PL P 494	Seed Pathology	2
			<u>Psychology Courses</u>		Credits
			PSYCH 310	Brain and Behavior	3
			PSYCH 315	Drugs and Behavior	3
<u>Biomedical Studies Courses</u>		Credits			
B M S 329	Anat & Phys of Domestic Animals	3			
B M S 335	Molec & Cell Basis of Disease	1			
B M S 401 •	Intro Aquatic Animal Medicine	1			
B M S 448 •	Principles of Human Gross Anatomy	4			
<u>Community & Regional Planning Courses</u>		Credits			
C R P 451 •	Introduction to GIS	3			
<u>Entomology Courses</u>		Credits			
ENT 370 •	Insect Biology	3			
ENT 374	Insects and our Health	3			
ENT 374L •	Insects and our Health Laboratory	1			
ENT 375	Plant Protection Using Natural Enemies	3			
ENT 425 •	Aquatic Insects	3			
ENT 471 •	Insect Ecology	3			
<u>Food Science & Human Nutrition Courses</u>		Credits			
FS HN 360	Adv. Human Nutrition & Metabolism	3			
FS HN 361 •	Nutrition & Health Assessment	2			
FS HN 362	Nutrition in Growth and Development	3			
FS HN 364	Nutrit. & Prevention of Chronic Disease	3			
FS HN 367	Medical Terminology	1			

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory – courses taken over the summer at Iowa Lakeside Lab often count towards advanced biology requirements. Please check for available courses on the Lakeside Lab web page (<http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/lakesidelab/>) and consult your advisor for those that apply to the degree program.