

Biology

Please refer to the current [Undergraduate Academic Catalog](#) to see the course descriptions and a major description with requirements for Biology.

New students considering a major in biology should first complete **BOTH BIOL 121-122 (or BIOL 125-126) and CHEM 111-112**. Both of these year-long sequences (BIOL and CHEM) are prerequisites for Introduction to Ecology & Evolution, Cellular Biology, and General Genetics. All three of these courses should be taken in the sophomore year. These latter courses are in turn prerequisites (in some combination) for all other upper-level biology courses. **BIOL 121, BIOL 125 and CHEM 111** are offered in the Fall semester only and **BIOL 122, BIOL 126 and CHEM 112** are offered in the Spring semester only. **BIOL 121-122 and CHEM 111-112** are also offered during the summer. Please visit the [Biology Department's website](#) for more information including a recommended time table for classes.

Below please find some examples of first semester schedules for a Biology major. There are many variations of a first semester schedule; the examples are just meant to help you see that there are many ways to reach the same goals.

For information about the General Education Requirements Met below visit the [General Education Requirements](#) website.

Example 1:

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. BIOL 121 - Biology Concepts I with Lab (4)	Major Prerequisite,
2. CHEM 111 - General Chemistry I with Lab (4)	NS
3. GEOG 101 - World Regional Geography (3)	Major Prerequisite, GI
4. LATN 101** - Elementary Latin (3)	FL
5. FSEM 100C3 - Imagining Africa (3)	FSEM

Example 2:

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. BIOL 121 - Biology Concepts I with Lab (4)	Major Prerequisite,
2. CHEM 111 - General Chemistry I with Lab (4)	NS
3. FSEM 100D5 - Scientific Controversies Media (3)	Major Prerequisite, FSEM
4. MATH 121** - Calculus I (3)	QR

Example 3: Athletes for varsity sports must register for the 400-level course of the sport. Practice times for varsity sports can vary, but generally speaking, athletes should allow for enough time to get to and from practice on weekdays from 3 - 6 p.m. Please check with the individual coach for your sport to verify specific practice times each semester.

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. BIOL 121 - Biology Concepts I with Lab (4)	Major Prerequisite, NS
2. CHEM 111 - General Chemistry I with Lab (4)	Major Prerequisite
3. GREK 101 - Elementary Greek (3)	FL

4. ANTH 101 - Anthropology (3)	GI or HES
5. PHYD 407 - Intercollegiate Cross Country Women (1)	Elective

Example 4: Honors Students

Course (credits)	Requirement(s) Met
1. BIOL 125 - Phage Hunters I with Lab (4)	Major Prerequisite, NS
2. CHEM 111 - General Chemistry I with Lab (4)	Major Prerequisite
3. GEOG 101 - World Regional Geography (3)	GI
4. LATN 101** - Elementary Latin (3)	FL
5. HONR 100 (3)	FSEM

*These paths assume fall matriculation. Students entering in the spring semester will make appropriate adjustment for sequencing issues.

***This particular course is in a discipline that allows students with demonstrated competence upon admission to UMW (such as AP/IB credit, dual enrollment, etc.) to begin courses at a higher level. Please read the Academic Planning Guide carefully to see if you meet the requirements. For example: students may begin at any level language course for which they feel prepared (101, 102, 105, 201, 202 or 205), but must then complete the rest of the sequence in order without repeating or skipping any levels.*