

Biological Sciences Major

Major Requirements

Degree Type: B.A. or B.S.
Minimum Credits Required: 120

University Degree Requirements

For complete details on these and other university degree requirements, refer to the Degree and Graduation Requirements (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/degree-and-graduation/>) section in the University Catalog.

- 1. Minimum of 120 semester credits (some programs may exceed this minimum).
- 2. Complete the University General Education requirements.
- 3. Minimum institutional GPA of 2.00 based on work taken at NDSU.
- 4. Minimum of 30 credits in resident at NDSU.
- 5. Minimum of 36 upper level credits (courses numbered 300 or higher).
- 6. Students with transfer credit must meet the NDSU 30 credits in residence (#4). Of these 30 credits in residence, a minimum of 15 credits must be in courses numbered 300 or above, and 15 credits must be in the student's declared major curricula.

University General Education Requirements

A list of university approved general education courses along with the administrative policies governing the requirement and the categories is available here (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Category C: Communication		12
Category R: Quantitative Reasoning		3
Category S: Science and Technology		10
Category A: Humanities and Fine Arts		6
Category B: Social and Behavioral Sciences		6
Category W: Wellness		2
Category D: Cultural Diversity		
Category G: Global Perspectives		
Category L: Digital Literacy		
Total Credits		39

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Biological Sciences Core Requirements		
BIOL 150 & 150L	General Biology I and General Biology I Laboratory	4
BIOL 151 & 151L	General Biology II and General Biology II Laboratory	4
CHEM 121 & 121L	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory (May satisfy general education category s)	4
CHEM 122 & 122L	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory (May satisfy general education category S)	4
MATH 146 or MATH 165	Applied Calculus I (May satisfy general education category R) ² Calculus I	4
STAT 330	Introductory Statistics	3
BIOL 189	1	1
BIOL 270 or BIOL 271 or BIOL 272 or BIOL 273	Undergraduate Research Experience: Antibiotic Discovery Undergraduate Research Experience: Diet and Exercise Physiology Undergraduate Research Experience: Health and Wellness Decisions Undergraduate Research Experience: Genomic Analysis	3

or BIOL 274	Undergraduate Research Experience: Biomedical Research Analysis	
or BIOL 275	Undergraduate Research Experience: Insect Behavior	
BIOL 315 & 315L	Genetics and Genetics Laboratory	4
BIOL 359	Evolution	3
Emphasis Area		
Select one of the emphasis areas listed below to complete the major requirements		29-59
Total Credits		63-93

¹ BIOL 189 is only required for first-time, first-year students—A first-time, first-year student is defined as a student who has not yet completed a college course as a college student. Students that are not first-time, first-year students that either transfer into the university or change their major are not required to take BIOL 189.

² Students interested in graduate programs that require 2 semesters of calculus should take MATH 165 and 166.

Standard Emphasis

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 364	General Ecology	3
or BIOL 370	Cell Biology	
Select one from the following:		3 or 8
CHEM 240	Survey of Organic Chemistry (or)	
CHEM 341 & 341L & CHEM 342 & CHEM 342L	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry I Laboratory and Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry II Laboratory	
Select one from the following:		3 or 8
PHYS 120	Fundamentals of Physics (or)	
PHYS 211 & 211L & PHYS 212 & PHYS 212L	College Physics I and College Physics I Laboratory and College Physics II and College Physics II Laboratory	
Select 15 credits of any 300-400 level course offered in the department		15
BIOL 364	General Ecology (if not used to meet the above requirement)	
BIOL 370	Cell Biology (if not used to meet the above requirement)	
BIOL 379		
BIOL 401	Science Communication	
BIOL 410	Comparative Chordate Morphology	
BIOL 414	Plant Taxonomy	
BIOL 444	Vertebrate Histology	
BIOL 450	Invertebrate Zoology	
BIOL 452	Ichthyology	
BIOL 454	Herpetology	
BIOL 456	Ornithology	
BIOL 458	Mammalogy	
BIOL 460	Animal Physiology	
BIOL 461	Plant Ecology	
BIOL 462	Physiological Ecology	
BIOL 463	Animal Behavior	
BIOL 464	Endocrinology	
BIOL 465	Hormones and Behavior	
BIOL 470	Freshwater Ecology and Limnology	
BIOL 472	Structure and Diversity of Plants and Fungi	
BIOL 475	Conservation Biology	
BIOL 476	Wildlife Ecology and Management	
BIOL 477	Wildlife and Fisheries Management Techniques	

BIOL 479	
BIOL 480	Ecotoxicology
BIOL 481	Wetland Science
BIOL 482	Developmental Biology
BIOL 483	Cellular Mechanisms of Diseases

Total Credits **24-34**

Biomedical Sciences Emphasis

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 370	Cell Biology	3
CHEM 341	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 341L	Organic Chemistry I Laboratory	1
CHEM 342	Organic Chemistry II	3
CHEM 342L	Organic Chemistry II Laboratory	1
PHYS 211	College Physics I	3
PHYS 211L	College Physics I Laboratory	1
PHYS 212	College Physics II	3
PHYS 212L	College Physics II Laboratory	1
BIOC 460	Foundations of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I	3
Select 12 credits from the following - at least 9 credits must have BIOL prefix		12
BIOC 461	Foundations of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology II	
BIOL 410	Comparative Chordate Morphology	
BIOL 444	Vertebrate Histology	
BIOL 460	Animal Physiology	
BIOL 464	Endocrinology	
BIOL 465	Hormones and Behavior	
BIOL 479		
BIOL 482	Developmental Biology	
BIOL 483	Cellular Mechanisms of Diseases	
MICR 350	General Microbiology	
MICR 460	Microbial Pathogenesis	
MICR 470	Basic Immunology	
BIOL Course	Choose one additional 3 credit 300-400 level BIOL course offered by the department	3

Total Credits **37**

Ecology and Conservation Science Emphasis

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 364	General Ecology	3
BIOL 475	Conservation Biology	3
or BIOL 476	Wildlife Ecology and Management	
Select one from the following:		3 or 8
CHEM 240	Survey of Organic Chemistry	
CHEM 341 & 341L & CHEM 342 & CHEM 342L	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry I Laboratory and Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry II Laboratory	
Select one from the following:		3 or 8
PHYS 120	Fundamentals of Physics	
PHYS 211 & 211L & PHYS 212 & PHYS 212L	College Physics I and College Physics I Laboratory and College Physics II and College Physics II Laboratory	

Select 9 credits from the following - at least 6 credits must have a BIOL prefix 9

BIOL 414	Plant Taxonomy	
BIOL 450	Invertebrate Zoology	
BIOL 452	Ichthyology	
BIOL 454	Herpetology	
BIOL 456	Ornithology	
BIOL 458	Mammalogy	
BIOL 460	Animal Physiology	
BIOL 461	Plant Ecology	
BIOL 462	Physiological Ecology	
BIOL 463	Animal Behavior	
BIOL 470	Freshwater Ecology and Limnology	
BIOL 472	Structure and Diversity of Plants and Fungi	
BIOL 475	Conservation Biology (if not used to meet the above requirement)	
BIOL 476	Wildlife Ecology and Management (if not used to meet the above requirement)	
BIOL 477	Wildlife and Fisheries Management Techniques	
BIOL 480	Ecotoxicology	
BIOL 481	Wetland Science	
RNG 450	Range Plants	
ENT 350	General Entomology	
ENT 470	Insect Ecology	
MICR 350	General Microbiology	
MICR 452	Microbial Ecology	
MICR 460	Microbial Pathogenesis	
PPTH 460	Fungal Biology	
PLSC 433	Weed Biology and Ecology	
SOIL 351	Soil Ecology	
BIOL Course	Choose one additional 3 credit 300-400 level BIOL course offered by the department	3
Total Credits		24-34

Environmental Science Emphasis

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 364	General Ecology	3
BIOL 480	Ecotoxicology	3
GEOL 105	Physical Geology	3
GEOL 105L	Physical Geology Lab	1
GEOL 106L	The Earth Through Time Lab	1
GEOL 106	The Earth Through Time	3
PHYS 211L	College Physics I Laboratory	1
PHYS 211	College Physics I	3
PHYS 212L	College Physics II Laboratory	1
PHYS 212	College Physics II	3
SOIL 210	Introduction to Soil Science	3
SOIL 410	Soils and Land Use	3
Select one from the following:		3
PLSC 380	Principles of Plant Physiology	
BIOL 414	Plant Taxonomy	
BIOL 461	Plant Ecology	
BIOL 472	Structure and Diversity of Plants and Fungi	
RNG 450	Range Plants	
Select one of the following sequences:		3 or 8
CHEM 240 & BIOC 260	Survey of Organic Chemistry and Elements of Biochemistry (or)	

CHEM 341 & 341L & CHEM 342 & BIOC 460	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry I Laboratory and Organic Chemistry II and Foundations of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I	
Choose one of the following:		3 or 8
CHEM 431 & 431L	Analytical Chemistry I and Analytical Chemistry I Laboratory (or)	
GEOL 428	Geochemistry	
BIOL Courses	Choose an additional 12 credits of 300 - 400 level BIOL courses offered by the department	12
Total Credits		49-59

Degree and Program Note:

- Botany and/or Zoology minors: Students completing a botany or zoology minor along with their biological sciences major must take a 300 or 400 level elective in the minor that is different from any 300 or 400 level electives taken for the major emphasis area. The only classes that students can take in common for the biological sciences major and the botany and/or zoology minor are the BIOL 150/150L, BIOL 151/151L, and BIOL 359 courses.
- Except for courses offered only with pass/fail grading, no course may be requested to take as Pass/Fail grading for this major.