Biology, Health, and Society (BHS) Major Requirements

**Why study Biology?**

Biology as a discipline is connected to many aspects of our everyday lives. From development and disease, to the food we eat, to the environment around us, studying biology brings us a deeper understanding of the world around us and allows us to benefit society through medicine, agriculture and environmental stewardship. Biology is a rapidly advancing area as we learn more every day about biological concepts ranging from our cells to our planet. Mastering biology opens up diverse careers in a great range of areas, including: health science (medicine, dentistry, public health), biotechnology and pharmaceutical sciences, biological research, environmental policy, conservation and wildlife biology, ecological monitoring, and farming (among others).

**Who should major in Biology, Health, and Society?**

Biology, Health, and Society is recommended for students interested in a broad view of biology and the interactions between science and society, whether focused on health, education, or the environment. The major is appropriate for pre-health students, as well as those who wish to pursue professional school (e.g., law school) or other non-biology-specific career options where knowledge of the natural sciences would be beneficial. BHS also works well when paired with a (non-science) field of study in a dual major. It differs from other Biology majors in that it requires fewer credits, less laboratory work, and has more breadth. Students intending to go to medical school should compare degree requirements to the med. school requirements found here: https://lsa.umich.edu/advising/plan-your-path/pre-health. It is strongly recommended that pre-med and other pre-health students meet with an LSA pre-health advisor.

**Exclusions:** Students who elect a major in Biology, Health, and Society may not elect the following majors: Biology; Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB); CMB:BME; Cellular & Molecular Biomedical Science (CMBS); Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity; Microbiology; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB); Plant Biology; Neuroscience; Evolutionary Anthropology; Biochemistry; or Biomolecular Science. They also may not elect an academic minor in Biology; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; or Plant Biology. Students pursuing a dual-degree program (MDDP) with School of Public Health and LSA may not elect a major in Biology, Health, & Society (BHS).

**How do I declare?**

Students interested in any major in the biological sciences are encouraged to meet with an advisor to discuss their academic plans as soon as possible! Students need not have completed all of the major prerequisites to declare, but should have completed the introductory biology sequence with a 2.0 or better and be in good academic standing. Make an advising appointment online through the Biology website: www.lsa.umich.edu/biology.

**What courses should I take first?**

The introductory biology sequence consists of: BIOLOGY 171, BIOLOGY 172 or 174, and BIOLOGY 173. Students should take 171 or 172/174 first and then follow with the second lecture course and 173. **(Note that the introductory biology sequence courses cannot be taken pass/fail.)**

- Students with an appropriate AP/IB score receive credit for BIOLOGY 195, which is the equivalent of BIOLOGY 171 & 172/174, but does NOT grant credit for 173.
- Transfer students who receive credit for BIOLOGY 191 should take BIOLOGY 192 and BIOLOGY 173 to complete the introductory biology sequence.

Students with AP credit for 195 or students who have completed the Intro. Bio. sequence should consider a gateway Biology course (Group A) or a health and society course (Group B) as an introduction to the major.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BIOLOGY 171</th>
<th>BIOLOGY 172 or 174 (prerequisite: prior or concurrent credit for CHEM 130)</th>
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<td>...focuses on ecology, biodiversity, and genetics and evolutionary processes. Students engage with biological hypotheses dealing with prominent current issues such as human evolutionary origins, emerging diseases, conservation biology, and global change.</td>
<td>...focuses on how cells, organs, and organisms work. (174 covers the same material as 172 but is geared toward students who prefer a more problem-solving approach to understand biology, rather than a more traditional lecture-based course.)</td>
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**BIOLOGY 173** *(prerequisite = BIOLOGY 171, 172, 174, 191, or 195)*

...is the accompanying lab component to the introductory sequence. The course provides an integrated introduction to experimental biology. Topics focus on biochemistry, molecular genetics, evolution, and ecology.

**How do I get involved in research?**

Independent research is a wonderful opportunity to take an active role in studying what you enjoy! Students participate in a project in which they themselves have a say in the design, implementation, and interpretation of experiments or research. Please visit the Undergraduate Research web pages for the specific requirements for independent research and advice on how to choose a research area and mentor: [http://www.lsa.umich.edu/biology/studentresearch](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/biology/studentresearch).

Biology, Health, and Society

Updated: 11/12/21 lcc
What are the requirements for Honors?
The Program in Biology administers an Honors Program to train students to conduct independent research in the biological sciences or related fields. Participating in the honors program allows students to develop their research skills, deepen their understanding of the field, and form productive relationships with faculty and other students. The achievement is noted on the diploma and official transcript.

In addition to completing all the requirements for the major, an honors degree requires:
   (1) an overall and major GPA of at least 3.4,
   (2) participation in at least two terms of independent research, and
   (3) the completion of a significant piece of independent research that is
      (a) reported in an honors thesis and
      (b) presented in a public forum.

Note that undergraduate research students typically register for an independent research course (as appropriate for their major) during each term of research. Formal course registration is encouraged, but not required. For more information, including the Honors Program application, consult the Program in Biology Honors Information page.

BHS majors pursuing research in a biology lab should follow the traditional honors path, which includes working with a sponsor or co-sponsor and readers from research-related EEB or MCD2 faculty. However, BHS is unique among Program in Biology-supervised majors in that students have the opportunity to undertake an honors thesis outside of a biology laboratory if it is appropriate for the theme of the major (biology’s impacts on health and society). Students who want to pursue an honors thesis more interdisciplinary in approach (i.e., with a faculty member outside of biology) will need to conduct original research on the topic. Literature surveys or reviews are not eligible. Students considering a BHS interdisciplinary (BHS-ID) thesis should apply to the Program in Biology Honors Program as early as possible to ensure that their research will qualify for an honors thesis. For more information, including the Honors Program application, visit lsa.umich.edu/biology/undergraduates/honors-program.html.

How do I find out about internships, study abroad, or summer programs?
Information about study abroad, faculty-led intercultural internships, faculty-led courses and field experiences, and Spring/Summer language study is available through the Center for Global and Intercultural Study (lsa.umich.edu/cgis). The Opportunity Hub (https://lsa.umich.edu/opportunityhub) also provides information on fellowships, internships and other student opportunities.

Can I transfer courses from another institution?
The Program in Biology will review classes taken at other institutions to determine equivalency to University of Michigan Biology courses. (Note that 300- and 400-level courses will not be evaluated for equivalent credit.) If an external class is determined to be equivalent to a U-M course, it can be posted to your transcript as the U-M Biology course (with a "T") when you successfully complete the course and the transfer steps listed on the Biology website: www.lsa.umich.edu/biology/transfercredit. Approved equivalent courses may count toward major requirements, but transfer students are encouraged to meet with a major advisor to develop a major plan. At least 16 of the 24 credits required for the BHS major must be taken in-residence.

[Note: You are welcome to request review of a course before you take it. You will need to provide a detailed syllabus, and must obtain one from the instructor in advance.]

How can I get involved with student organizations?
There are several student organizations pertinent to biology-related majors. More detailed information is available on the Program in Biology website: www.lsa.umich.edu/biology.

- **Biology Student Alliance (BSA):** a student org. open to all Program in Biology & Neuro. majors as well as pre-med or other science-oriented students interested in biology research and outreach, and in collaborating and socializing with other biology-interested students. Email bsa-eboard@umich.edu for more information.
- **Botany Undergrads Doing Stuff (BUDS):** an extremely informal group of people dedicated to botany. Contact Faculty Advisors Robyn Burnham or Laura Olsen if interested.
- **Michigan Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Society (MEEBS):** The Michigan Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Society (MEEBS) is an informal club designed to create a community for EEB-interested students from any major. Contact faculty advisor Catherine Badgley or check out the MEEBS Facebook page for more information.
- **Neuroscience Students Association (NSA):** an organization for students with an interest in neuroscience. Email nsaleadteam@umich.edu for more information.
### BIOLOGY, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY COURSE LISTS

#### Group A — Gateway Biology [2 courses, min. 6 credits required]:
- BIO 205 (3) Developmental Biology
- BIO 207* (4) Microbiology
- BIO 225 (3) Principles of Human and Animal Physiology (lecture)
- BIO 202 (4) Biological Data Analysis & Prog

#### Group B — Health and Society [2 courses, min. 6 credits required]:
- AAS 322 (4) Introduction to Environment Politics
- BIOLOGY 212 (3) Plants and Human Health
- BIOLOGY 241 (4) What is Cancer?
- MCDB 396 (3) Science Outreach for Biology
- EEB/ENVIRON 318 (4) Food, Land and Society
- EEB/ANTHRBIO/ENVIRON 362 (4) Primate Evolutionary Ecology
- EEB 498 (3) The Ecology of Agroecosystems
- AMCULT/WGS (WOMENSTD) 233 (3) Genes and Society
- AMCULT/HISTORY 284 (3-4) Sickness and Health in Society
- AMCULT 365 (3) AIDS and America
- ANTHRBI 363 (4) Genes, Disease, Culture
- ANTHRBI 364 (3-4) Nutrition and Evolution
- ANTHRBI 373 (3) Humans and Environmental Change
- ANTHRBI 467 (3-4) Human Behavioral Ecology
- ANTHRCL 327 /WGS (WOMENSTD) 307 (4) Critical Theory in Medicine & Healing
- ANTHRCL 341 (4) The Globalization of Biomedicine
- ANTHRCL 344 (4) Medical Anthropology
- ENVIRON/ANTHRCL 256 (3) Culture, Adaptation, and Environment
- ENVIRON 308 (3) Sustainability and Health
- ENVIRON 310 (3) Toxicology: The Study of Environ. Chemicals & Disease
- ENVIRON 312 / POLSCI 380 / PUBPOL 312 (3) Environ. Politics & Policy
- ENVIRON/PSYCH 360 (3) Behavior and Environment
- HISTORY 233 (3-4) Hist. of Sexually Trans. Diseases from Syphilis to AIDS

#### Group C — Core Biology [2 courses, min. 6 credits required]:
- Genetics: BIO 305 (4)
- Biochemistry: MCDB 310 (4), BIOLCHEM 415 (4), or CHEM 351 (4)
- General Ecology: BIOLOGY 281 (3) or 381* (5)
- Evolution: EEB 390 (3), 391* (4), or 392* (5)

#### Group D — Biology Elective [1 course, min. 3 credits required]: (A third course from Group A or Group C can be used here)
- BIOLOGY, EEB, or MCDB course at the 200-level, 300-level, or 400-level (excluding BIOLOGY 200, 212, 241, 299; MCDB/EEB 300, 301, 302, 360, 396, 397, 399, 400, 412, 460, 461, 494, 499)

#### Group E — Additional Course(s) [Only if needed to reach 24 credits]:
- Any Add.’l Course from Groups A, B, C, or D above, or a course from the following:
- MATH 200-level or above
- PHYSICS 200-level or above
- STAT 206, 250, 400-level or above (only if not used to fulfill prereq.)

### Biology Lab List:  
(Note: An EEB course taken in spring or summer at the U-M BioStation [UMBS] counts as a laboratory course.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 202 (4)</td>
<td>Biological Data Analysis &amp; Prog. (only if not used to fulfill prereq.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 207 (4)</td>
<td>Introductory Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 226 (2)</td>
<td>Animal Physiology Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 230 (4)</td>
<td>Introduction to Plant Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 252 (4)</td>
<td>Vertebrate Evolution and Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 330 (5)</td>
<td>Biology of Birds (UMBS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 341 (4)</td>
<td>Parasitology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 348 (5)</td>
<td>Forest Ecosystems (UMBS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EEB/MCDB 300 or 400 (Independent Research), elected for a minimum of 3 credits in a single term, may be used to fulfill a lab requirement. (3 credit max. applies; see CONSTRAINTS.)**
### BIOLOGY, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

#### BIOLOGY, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY PREREQUISITES:

**Introductory Biology Sequence:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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- Choose Sequence A, B, or C:
  - **A:** BIO 171, BIO 172 or 174, & BIO 173
  - **B:** BIO 195 (AP/IB) & BIO 173
  - **C:** BIO 191 (transfer credit), BIO 192, & BIO 173

*Students may declare the major after completing the intro bio sequence with a C average*

**Chemistry:**

- CHEM 210 & 211

**Quantitative Analysis Sequence:**

- Quantitative Analysis 1: MATH 115, 120 (AP), 175, 185, or 295
- Quantitative Analysis 2: One course from: MATH 116, 121 (AP), 156, 176, 186, or 296; STATS 180 (AP), 206, 250, or 280; STATS 400-level or above (min. 3 credits); BIOLOGY 202; BIOPHYS/PHYSICS 290; EEC 183, 203, or 280; EARTH 468; PHYSICS 125, 135, 139, 140, 150, or 160; or other course with a MATH 115 prereq. approved by a major advisor. [Note: Any course used here cannot also be used as a major elective; i.e., a course cannot "double-count."]

### BIOLOGY, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY MAJOR:

**Group A: Gateway Biology Courses [2 courses, min. 6 credits]**

- Choose two courses from the Group A Course List

**Group B: Health and Society Courses [2 courses, min. 6 credits]:**

- Choose two courses from the Group B Course List

**Group C: Core Biology Courses [2 courses, min. 6 credits]**

- Genetics: BIO 305
- Biochemistry: Choose from: MCDB 310, BIOLCHEM 415, or CHEM 351
- Ecology: BIOLOGY 281 or EEB 381
- Evolution: EEB 390, 391, or 392

**Group D: Biology Elective [1 course, min. 3 credits]**

- BIOLOGY, EEB, or MCDB course at the 200-level, 300-level, or 400-level **excluding** BIOLOGY 200, 212, 241, 299; MCDB/EEB 300, 301, 302, 396, 397, 399, 400, 412, 494, 499; MCDB 360, 460; 461

**Lab Course for Biology, Health, and Society**

- Lab Requirement (1 course from the approved Bio Lab list is required; see attached.)
  - EEB/MCDB 300 or 400 (Independent Research), elected for a min. of 3 credits in a single term, may be used to fulfill a lab requirement. (3 credit max. applies; see CONSTRAINTS below.)

**Additional Course(s):**

- Choose additional courses from Group E, if needed, to reach 24 major credit hours.

**CONSTRAINTS:**

- Prerequisites, introductory science courses, and non-specific (departmental) transfer courses are EXCLUDED from the 24 cr. required for the major.
- A maximum of 3 credits of independent research (BIO 200, BIO 299, EEB/MCDB 300 or 400, et al.) may be counted toward the major.

**Total Units and GPA Requirement for Biology, Health, and Society**

- Minimum 24 cr. in Major
- Minimum 2.0 GPA in Major: GPA is calculated from all mandatory prerequisites, all courses used for major requirements (including cognates), and all courses in BIOLOGY, EEB, and MCDB.