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 health science (medicine, dentistry, public health), biotechnology and pharmaceutical sciences, biological research, environmental policy, conservation and wildlife biology, ecological monitoring, and farming.

Who should major in General Biology?
General Biology is recommended for students 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. It differs from the Biology major in that it requires fewer credits, less laboratory work, and has more breadth, particularly in the form of a non-science cognate course. Students intending to go to medical school should compare degree requirements to the med school requirements found here: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/advising/academicplanning/prehealth. 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 General Biology may not elect the following majors: Biology; Biology, Health, and Society; Cellular and Molecular Biology; CMB:BME; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity; Microbiology; Plant Biology; Neuroscience; Biochemistry; or Biomolecular Science. They also may not elect an academic minor in Biology; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Plant Biology; Chemistry; or Biochemistry.

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 biology introductory 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 biological science introductory sequence consists of: BIOLOGY 171, BIOLOGY 172 or 174, and BIOLOGY 173. (Students with an appropriate AP score receive credit for BIOLOGY 195, which is the equivalent of BIO 171 & 172/174, but does NOT grant credit for 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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOLOGY 171</th>
<th>BIOLOGY 172 or 174</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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>(prerequisite: prior or concurrent credit for CHEM 130) ...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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOLOGY 173</th>
<th>BIOLOGY 172 or 174</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(prerequisite = BIOLOGY 171, 172, 174, 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.</td>
<td>(prerequisite: prior or concurrent credit for CHEM 130) ...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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 lab, field, or modeling project in which they themselves have a say in the design, implementation, and interpretation of experiments. 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).

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. 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, and
2. the completion of a significant piece of independent research that is
   (a) reported in an honors thesis and
   (b) presented in a public forum.

For more information, consult the Program in Biology Honors Program information page or a Program in Biology advisor.

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 ([www.lsa.umich.edu/cgis](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/cgis)). The Opportunity Hub ([lsa.umich.edu/opportunityhub](http://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, EEB, and MCDB courses. 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, EEB, or MCDB 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](http://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.

[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](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/biology).

- **Biology Student Alliance (BSA):** intended for Biology, CMB, Microbiology, Plant Biology, Neuroscience, and Biochemistry majors, as well as pre-med or science oriented students interested in learning more about MCDB-related topics. Email BSA-Board@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 & General Biology Electives**

### Group I – MCDB focus
- BIO 205 (3) Developmental Biology
- BIO 207* (4) Microbiology
- BIO 222 (4) Principles of Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
- BIO 225 (3) Principles of Human and Animal Physiology (lecture)
- BIO 230* (4) Introduction to Plant Biology
- BIO 272 (4) Fundamentals of Cell Biology

*also satisfies lab req.

### Group II – EEB focus
- BIO 207* (4) Microbiology
- BIO 230* (4) Introduction to Plant Biology
- BIO 252* (4) Vertebrate Evolution and Diversity
- BIO 255* (4) Plant Diversity
- BIO 256 (3) Environmental Physiology of Animals
- BIO 281 (3) General Ecology
- BIO 288* (4) Introduction to Animal Diversity
- EEB 381* (5) General Ecology (Su at UMBS)

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**Biology & General Biology Labs** *(Note: An EEB course taken at the U-M BioStation [UMBS] counts as a laboratory course.)*
- BIO 207 (4) Microbiology
- BIO 226 (2) Animal Physiology Laboratory
- BIO 230 (4) Introduction to Plant Biology
- BIO 252 (4) Vertebrate Evolution and Diversity
- BIO 255 (4) Plant Diversity
- BIO 288 (4) Introduction to Animal Diversity
- EEB/MCDB 300 (3) Undergraduate Research**
- MCDB 306 (3) Intro. Genetics Laboratory
- MCDB 308 (3) Developmental Biology Laboratory
- EEB 313 (4) Geobiology
- EEB 320 (4) Rivers, Lakes, and Wetlands
- EEB 321 (5) Rivers, Lakes, and Wetlands (UMBS)
- EEB 330 (5) Biology of Birds (UMBS)
- EEB 341 (4) Parasitology
- EEB 348 (5) Forest Ecosystems (UMBS)
- EEB 372 (3) General Ecology Laboratory
- EEB 381 (5) General Ecology (UMBS)
- EEB 392 (5) Evolution (UMBS)
- EEB/MCDB 400 (3) Advanced Research**
- EEB 405 (5) Biological Station Special Topics (UMBS)
- MCDB 413 (3) Plant Molecular Biology Laboratory
- EEB/MCDB 416 (4) Introduction to Bioinformatics
- MCDB 419 (3) Endocrinology Laboratory
- MCDB 423 (3) Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology Laboratory
- MCDB 424 (2) Behavioral Neurobiology Laboratory
- MCDB 429 (3) Cell and Molecular Biology Laboratory
- EEB 431 (5) Ecology of Animal Parasites (UMBS)
- EEB 433 (4) Ornithology
- EEB 436 (4) Woody Plants
- EEB 443 (5) Biology of Insects (UMBS)
- EEB 450 (4) Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles
- EEB 451 (4) Biology of Mammals
- EEB 453 (5) Field Mammalogy (UMBS)
- EEB 455 (5) Ethnobotany (UMBS)
- EEB 457 (5) Algae in Freshwater Ecosystems (UMBS)
- EEB 459 (4) Systematic Botany
- EEB 463 (3) Neotropical Plant Families
- EEB 468 (4) Biology of Fungi
- EEB 477 (5) Laboratory in Field Ecology
- EEB 482 (5) Limnology (UMBS)
- EEB 483 (4) Limnology: Freshwater Ecology
- EEB 486 (5) Biology and Ecology of Fishes (UMBS)
- EEB 489 (3) Soil Ecology
- EEB 493 (5) Behavioral Ecology (UMBS)
- EEB 556 (5) Field Botany of Northern Michigan (UMBS)

**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.)**

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**General Biology Cognates (not approved for Biology)**
- AMCULT 241/BIOLOGY 241 – Health, Biology, and Society: What is Cancer?
- ANTHRCUL 344 – Medical Anthropology
- ENVIRON 256/ANTHRCUL 256 – Culture, Adaptation, and Environment
- ENVIRON 270 – Our Common Future: Ecology, Economics, and Ethics of Sustainable Development
- PHIL 356 – Issues in Bioethics
- PHIL 381 – Science & Objectivity
- PHIL 420 – Philosophy of Science
- PHIL 425 – Philosophy of Biology
- RCNSCI 263 – Energy and the Environment
- RCNSCI 270 – New Biotechnology: Scientific, Social, and Historical Perspectives
- RCSSCI 275/HISTORY 285 – Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society
- SOC 330 – Population Problems
- WS 220 – Perspectives in Women’s Health
- WS 300 – Men’s Health
**GENERAL BIOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

**GENERAL BIOLOGY PREREQUISITES:**

**Introductory Biology Sequence:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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- Choose Sequence A or B:
  - A: BIO 171, 172 or 174, & 173
  - B: BIO 195 (AP) & 173

**Chemistry Sequence:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 210 &amp; 211</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 215 &amp; 216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quantitative Analysis Sequence:**

- **CALCULUS I:** MATH 115, 120 (AP), 175, 185, or 295
- One course from: MATH 116, 121 (AP), 156, 176, 186, or 296; STATS 180 (AP), 250 or 280; STATS 400-level or above (min. 3 credits); BIOLOGY 202; BIOPHYS/PHYSICS 290; EED 203 or 280; EARTH 468; or other course with a MATH 115 prereq. approved by a major advisor. [Note: Any course used to fulfill this requirement cannot also be used as a major elective; i.e., a course cannot "double-count." ]

**Physics Sequence:**

- PHYSICS I (lecture + lab): One of the following combinations: PHYSICS 125 & 127; 135 & 136; 140 & 141; or 160 & 161. [PHYSICS 139 (AP) will also fulfill this requirement.]
- PHYSICS II (lecture + lab): One of the following combinations: PHYSICS 126 & 128; 135 & 136; 240 & 241; or 260 & 261. [PHYSICS 239 (AP) will also fulfill this requirement.]

**GENERAL BIOLOGY MAJOR:**

**Biology Group Options** (Courses with an asterisk (*) may overlap with the lab requirement):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group I</th>
<th>MCDB Elective: Choose 1 from: BIO 205, BIO 207*, BIO 222, BIO 225, BIO 230*, or BIO 272</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group II</td>
<td>EEB Elective: Choose 1 from: BIO 207*, BIO 230*, BIO 252*, BIO 255*, BIO 256, BIO 281, BIO 288*, or EEB 381*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Courses** (Courses with an asterisk (*) may overlap with the lab requirement):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genetics:</th>
<th>BIO 305</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry:</td>
<td>Choose from: MCDB 310, BIOLCHEM 415, or CHEM 351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolution:</td>
<td>EEB 390, 391, or 392*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Cognate:**

- Choose one course from the General Biology Cognate list (attached).

**Lab Courses for General Biology** (This requirement may OVERLAP with other major reqs.):

- Lab Requirement (2 courses from the approved list are 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 BIOLOGY, EEB, or MCDB courses at the 200-level and above, to reach 24 major credit hours.
  - BIO 241, EEB/MCDB 301, EEB/MCDB 302, EEB/MCDB 800, MCDB 412, and non-specific (departmental) transfer courses are EXCLUDED.

**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, EEB/MCDB 300 or 400) may be counted toward the major.

**Total Units and GPA Requirement for General Biology**

- 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.