

Information related to undergraduate studies in EEB

The goal of this document is to pull together information related to undergraduate studies. The [EEB Internal website](#) has the formal policies, including the Peer Review Protocol for Undergraduate Teaching and the Teaching Expectations Policy. This document contains additional information that may be of interest.

Biodiversity Courses

All EEB undergraduate majors must take at least one course with a biodiversity focus. A biodiversity course should have two or more of the following as a primary focus:

- Understanding the link between form and function
- Understanding global biodiversity and key traits within a taxonomic group
- Identification & distribution/biogeography
- Understanding major evolutionary relationships and patterns of extinctions and diversification

All biodiversity courses should also address:

- Current research, conservation, or both
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Course Tiers

Tier 1 Courses

Tier 1 courses are courses staffed by EEB that meet a core curricular need, generally based on being required for at least one of the Program in Biology undergraduate majors (often the EEB undergraduate major), or being required for EEB PhD students. These courses are typically taught at least once per year and should not be canceled due to staffing challenges (e.g., a sabbatical or other leave).

In addition, the department self-study in Fall 2022 stated that “an inability to staff one of these courses creates a high priority need that will narrow (if necessary) the focus of the next faculty search.”

The following are designated as Tier 1 courses:

Course number	Course Title
BIOLOGY 171	Intro Biology: EEB
BIOLOGY 173	Intro Biol Lab
BIOLOGY 207	Microbiology
BIOLOGY 230	Plant Biology
BIOLOGY 281	General Ecology

BIOLOGY 305	Genetics
EEB 372	Ecology Lab
EEB 390	Evolution
EEB 391/516	Principles of Evolution
EEB 410	EEB Capstone Seminar
EEB 499	Ethics
EEB 548	Principles of Ecology
EEB 701	Navigating Academia I

Tier 2 Courses

Tier 2 courses are not strictly required for any of our undergraduate majors, but are important components of any top educational program in EEB. Most of these courses meet a requirement (other than an elective) for one or more of the Program in Biology majors. This list also includes some large-enrollment courses that cover more general topics in ecology and/or evolutionary biology. These are courses that should be taught regularly (yearly or every other year) and that will receive priority for staffing, but that can be occasionally canceled if needed (e.g., due to a sabbatical).

In the Fall 2022 self-study, Tier 2 courses were defined as ones where an “inability to staff one of these courses will not narrow the job description, but will be used to prioritize candidates on the ‘long-short list’ based on this priority teaching need.”

The following are designated as Tier 2 courses:

Course number	Course Title
BIOLOGY 110	Global Change Biology
BIOLOGY 130	Animal Behavior
BIOLOGY 202	Biological Data Analysis
BIOLOGY 252	Vertebrate Evolution & Diversity
BIOLOGY 288	Animal Diversity
EEB 315	Ecol & Evol of Infectious Diseases
EEB 433	Ornithology
EEB 436	Woody Plants
EEB 440	Biology of Fishes
EEB 442	Biology of Insects
EEB 446	Microbial ecology
EEB 450	Amphibians and Reptiles
EEB 451	Biology of Mammals
EEB 468	Biology of Fungi
EEB 476	Ecosystem Ecology
EEB 490	Population Genetics
EEB 492	Behavioral Ecology
EEB 525	Science writing

Tier 3 Courses

All courses that are not designated as Tier 1 or Tier 2 are Tier 3 courses. Tier 3 includes courses that play an important role in our curriculum, including some large courses. However, the expectation is that the focus of these courses will shift over time. These courses are usually taught every other year but can be taught more frequently if enrollment justifies that and other staffing needs are met.