

What is Biology?

Biology is a life science and is the study of living things from the cellular level through interdependent living systems. It includes the study of human, animal, plant, and sea life, and more. Biology is a broad and diverse major and involves subtopics such as ecology, botany, entomology, astrobiology, environmental sciences, genetics, zoology, medicine, agriculture, and zoology, etc.

What can I do with a Biology Degree?

Biology majors get an outstanding background in transferable skills and education that prepare them for several professions. Many careers in the field of Biology require additional education beyond the Bachelor's degree, for example careers in research, bioengineering, ecology, and medicine (a Biology degree is a common choice for pre-professional students). Additional career possibilities exist in education, government agencies, and public service, and more. To learn more about educational and career opportunities with a Biology degree see www.wois.org under Careers or Educational Programs

Related Majors

Biomedical Sciences	Aquatic and Fishery Sciences
Environmental Science	Marine Biology
Microbiology	Oceanography
Neurobiology	Botany
Ecology	Forestry
Genetics	Physiology
Teacher Education	Psychology

Where can I study Biology?

Biology and related majors can be found at most state and private universities in the state of Washington and across the country.

How do I get started?

This guide is here to help you get started on your path towards a Biology major here at BC! For most students, the main goals for their time here are to graduate with an associates degree and complete most or all of their major prerequisites. Accordingly, here are some steps that you can take to be more confident in successfully transferring to your dream school as a Biology major.

Step One: Research

Making an informed decision about a major requires active research. Here are steps students should complete while determining whether a Biology major is the best fit for their goals:

- Make a list of things you want out of your education. What goals do you have when it comes to what you study in college?
- Log on to [wois.org](http://www.wois.org) (obtain a [site key](#) from the BC Career Center), or use the national occupations website O*NET (onetonline.org) to check out potential careers and consider what life after college may look like for you. Specifically look at what type of background is necessary for your dream job and if/how your education in Biology helps you meet those goals. If you have more questions be sure to visit the BC Center for Career Connections in the B building.
- Read the Biology department websites of your top transfer schools. Take notes of what you like and dislike about each school, paying special attention to the types of research, educational opportunities, and courses/emphases offered.
- Every university and major concentration **may require different prerequisite courses** to be completed prior to enrolling in their Biology program. Contact a departmental representative at your potential transfer university.

Step Two: Pick a BC Degree

As a transfer student, you not only have the responsibility of researching the prerequisite courses required for your major and university but you also need to consider which transfer degree you are planning to pursue here at BC. We offer several transfer degrees, two of which in particular are especially well-suited for prospective Biology students.

BC Degree	Key aspects of this degree:	This degree is ideal for:
<u>Associate in Arts and Sciences (AAS-DTA)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most flexible transfer degree at BC • Has lower math requirements than AS degrees • Has a larger electives section a student may use for completing science sequences, or for taking exploratory classes should they decide to change major 	New students looking to explore more and learn about the sciences. If a student has a limited background in math and science, this is a great degree to pursue to start becoming more exposed to these subjects.
<u>Associate in Science - Track 1 (AS-T1)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires students complete three major-series science sequences • Requires students complete a minimum of two quarters of calculus • Less written communication courses required than the AAS-DTA • Limits the amount of general education coursework a student must complete 	Students who have completed or plan to start in calculus, have experience in chemistry and biology, and would enjoy doing more science coursework during their time at BC.

Step Three: Make a Plan

The table below has a list of common prerequisites and recommended courses found for most Biology programs. Remember that these can vary school by school so researching multiple universities is important!

Written Communication	Mathematics	Chemistry	Biology	Other courses for considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENGL& 101 • ENGL 201/235 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MATH& 142* • MATH& 151 (recommended) • <i>MATH& 152 and/or BA 240 (depends on program)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHEM 140* • CHEM& 161 • CHEM& 162 • CHEM& 163 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIOL&160* • BIOL& 211 • BIOL& 212 • BIOL& 213 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After completing general Chemistry and Biology some students opt to complete a third science sequence like Physics or Organic Chemistry sequence. • Humanities and Social Sciences

* Classes noted with asterisk are prerequisites to courses here at BC and are not be considered "major series" coursework.

When planning out their first quarters at BC, students are often surprised to learn that they should begin with **Chemistry** before attempting to register for Biology. For most new students, an ideal first quarter schedule should include a Math, English, and depending on their Math level, an introductory Chemistry course. Students with a strong Chemistry background may want to take the Chemistry Placement Exam (www.bellevuecollege.edu/chemistry/chem161placement/) to see if they can waive CHEM 140.

Now that you have had a chance to review your prerequisites, and you've been able to review the degrees offered at BC, a great next step is to meet with an adviser. Biology is part of the Science Division (located in L200) and you can make an appointment to meet with the science adviser by visiting there, calling 425-564-2321, or by stopping the Advising front desk in the B building.

Additionally please note we can help answer clarifying questions via email: scienceadvising@bellevuecollege.edu

This is an unofficial guide only, designed to prepare students for entry into Washington State Biology programs. It is the student's responsibility to research and communicate with all community college and university programs to which he/she intends to apply to establish prerequisites and admission requirements, as they vary and are subject to change without notice.

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