



Biology, Health, and Society (BHS) Major Requirements

Program in Biology Student Services

📍: 2200 Biological Sciences Bldg. (BSB)

🌐: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/biology>

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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; Biotechnology & Bioenvironmental Sciences (BBS); Cellular & Molecular Biomedical Science (CMBS); Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity (EEB); Microbiology; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB); Plant Biology; Neuroscience; Human Origins, Biology, and Behavior; Evolutionary Anthropology; Biochemistry; or Biomolecular Science. They also may not elect an academic minor in Biology or Ecology & Evolutionary 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 must have completed the introductory biology sequence, one term in residence with a major GPA of 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. Students with an appropriate AP/IB score receive credit for BIOLOGY 196, which is the equivalent of BIOLOGY 173.
- Transfer students who receive credit for BIOLOGY 191 should take BIOLOGY 192 (offered in Fall terms only) 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.

BIOLOGY 171

...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.

BIOLOGY 172 or 174

(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.)

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>.

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) completion of the thesis program application via the Program in Biology web page,
- (3) participation in at least two terms of independent research, and
- (4) 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 MCDB 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.
- **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.
- **Microbiology Club:** An organization striving to introduce students to different topics within microbiology and explore the many opportunities within the field. Email olacomm@umich.edu for more information.

BIOLOGY, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY COURSE LISTS

Group A – Gateway Biology [2 courses, min. 6 credits required]:

BIO 205 (4) Developmental Biology	BIO 252* (4) Vertebrate Evolution & Diversity	BIO 290 (4) Biotechnology & Bioenvironmental Science
BIO 207* (4) Microbiology	BIO 256 (3) Environmental Physiology of Animals	<i>*Indicates a bio lab course</i>
BIO 225 (3) Principles of Human and Animal Physiology (lecture)	BIO 272 (4) Fundamentals of Cell Biology	
BIO 230* (4) Intro. to Plant Biology	BIO 288* (4) Intro. to Animal Diversity	

Group B—Health and Society [2 courses, min. 6 credits required]: (*Group B courses are offered through various depts and offering schedules may vary*)

AAS 322 Introduction to Environment Politics	IHS 340 Germ Wars, Asthma & the Food Allergy Epidemic
BIOLOGY 212 Plants and Human Health	MICRBIOL 405 Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases
EEB/ANTHROBIO/ENVIRON 362 Primate Evolutionary Ecology	PHIL 320 The World-View of Modern Science
EEB 498 The Ecology of Agroecosystems	PHIL 356 Issues in Bioethics
ANTHRBIO 364 Nutrition and Evolution	PHIL 381 Science & Objectivity
ANTHRBIO 373 Humans and Environmental Change	PHIL 425 Philosophy of Biology
ANTHRCUL 327 /WGS 307 Critical Theory in Med & Healing	PUBHLTH 200 / PUBPOL 210 Health & Society: Intro. to Public Health
ANTHRCUL 341 The Globalization of Biomedicine	PUBHLTH 305 The Environment and Human Health
ANTHRCUL 244/344 Intro. to Medical Anthropology/Medical Anthropology	PUBHLTH 310 Nutrition in the Life Cycle
ENVIRON/ANTHRCUL 256 Culture, Adaptation, and Environment	PUBHLTH 350 Global Public Health
ENVIRON 270 Our Common Future: Ecol., Econ. & Ethics of Sust. Devel.	PUBHLTH 381 Public Health Systems
ENVIRON 308 Sustainability and Health	SOC 302 Health & Society: An Intro. to Sociology (<i>No credit if SOC 100, 102, 195, or 300 has been taken</i>)
ENVIRON 310 Toxicology: The Study of Environ. Chemicals & Disease	SOC 475 Health, Medicine, & Society
ENVIRON 312 / POLSCI 380 / PUBPOL 312 Environ. Politics & Policy	SOC 476 Sociology of Bioethics
ENVIRON/PSYCH 360 Behavior and Environment	WGS (WOMENSTD) 220 Perspectives in Women's Health
HISTORY 242/MIDEAST 201/STS 202 Madness, Medicine, & Magic in ME	WGS (WOMENSTD) 305/ALA 306 Interdisciplinary LBGTQ Health
HISTORY 234 Medicine in the Western World	WGS (WOMENSTD) 324 Childbirth & Culture
HISTORY 285 Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society	WGS (WOMENSTD) 400 Women's Reproductive Health
HISTORY/AAS/ANTHRCUL 355 Health & Illness in African Worlds	
HISTORY 376 Epidemics	

Group C – Core Biology [2 courses from two different topics, min. 6 credits required]:

Genetics: BIOLOGY 305	General Ecology: BIOLOGY 281 or BIOLOGY 282
Biochemistry: MCDB 310, BIOLCHEM 415, or CHEM 351	Evolution: EEB 390, 391*, or 392* <i>*Indicates a bio lab course</i>

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 (**Exclusions:** BIOLOGY 200, 212, 241, 299, 312; MCDB/EEB 300, 301, 302, 312, 360, 396, 397, 399, 400, 412, 460, 461, 494, 499 are EXCLUDED.)

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:

BIO 200**, 299**	MATH 200-level or above (<i>if not used as prereq.</i>)	STATS 250, 400-level or above (<i>if not used as prereq.</i>)
EEB/MCDB 300**, 399, 400**, 494, 499	MICRBIOL 440 or MICRBIOL 460	
CHEM 230 and above	PHYSICS 200-level or above (<i>if not used as prereq.</i>)	

Biology Lab List:

BIO 202 Biological Data Analysis & Prog. (<i>only if not used to fulfill prereq.</i>)	EEB 391 Evol. Processes & Macroevolution	EEB 450 Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles
BIO 207 Introductory Microbiology	EEB 392 Evolution (UMBS)	EEB 451 Biology of Mammals
BIO 226 Animal Physiology Laboratory	EEB/MCDB 400 (3) Advanced Research**	EEB 453 Field Mammalogy (UMBS)
BIO 230 Introduction to Plant Biology	EEB 405 Bio. Station Special Topics (UMBS)	EEB 455 Ethnobotany (UMBS)
BIO 252 Vertebrate Evolution & Diversity	MCDB 423 Cellular and Molecular Neurobio. Lab	EEB 457 Algae in Freshwater Ecosystems (UMBS)
BIO 288 Introduction to Animal Diversity	MCDB 424 Behavioral Neurobiology Lab.	EEB 468 Biology of Fungi
EEB/MCDB 300 (3) Undergraduate Research**	MCDB 429 Cell and Molecular Biology Lab.	EEB 482 Limnology (UMBS)
MCDB 306 Intro. Genetics Laboratory	EEB 429 Intro. to Statistical Model Building in R	EEB 486 Field Studies of Freshwater Fishes (UMBS)
EEB 313 Geobiology	EEB 431 Ecol. of Animal Parasites (UMBS)	EEB 489 Soil Ecology
EEB 321 Rivers, Lakes, & Wetlands (UMBS)	EEB 433 Ornithology	EEB 493 Behavioral Ecology (UMBS)
EEB 330 Biology of Birds (UMBS)	EEB 436 Woody Plants	EEB 496 Experimental Evolution
EEB 348 Forest Ecosystems (UMBS)	EEB 441 Biology of Fishes Laboratory	EEB 556 Field Botany of Northern Michigan (UMBS)
EEB 372 General Ecology Laboratory	EEB 443 Biology of Insects (UMBS)	
EEB 373 General Ecology Laboratory (UMBS)	EEB 447 Microbes in the Wild: Environ. Micro. Lab (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.)

BIOLOGY, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

BIOLOGY, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY PREREQUISITES:

Introductory Biology Sequence:

	TERM:	COURSE:	GRADE:
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose Sequence A, B, or C:			
A: BIOLOGY 171, BIOLOGY 172 or 174, & BIOLOGY 173 or BIOLOGY 196 (AP/IB)			
B: BIOLOGY 195 (AP/IB) & BIOLOGY 173 or BIOLOGY 196 (AP/IB)			
C: BIOLOGY 191 (transfer credit), BIOLOGY 192, & BIOLOGY 173			
<i>*Students must have completed the introductory biology sequence, one term in residence with a major GPA of 2.0 or better, and be in good academic standing in order to declare.*</i>			

Chemistry:

<input type="checkbox"/> CHEM 210 & 211			

Quantitative Analysis Sequence:

Choose three courses from the following options: <i>[Note: Courses used to fulfill this requirement cannot also be used as a major elective; i.e., a course cannot "double-count."]</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 115, 120 (AP), 185, 275, or 295			
<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 116, 121 (AP), 156, 186, 276, or 296			
<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICS I: PHYSICS 125, 135, 139 (AP), 140, 150, or 160			
<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICS II: PHYSICS 126, 235, 239 (AP), 240, 250, or 260			
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Programming: EECS 180 (AP), 183, 203, and/or 280			
<input type="checkbox"/> Statistics: [STATS 180 (AP), 250, or 280]; and/or STATS 400-level or above (min. 3 credits)			
<input type="checkbox"/> BIOLOGY 202; BIOLOGY 131/COMPFOR 131/BIOPHYS 131; DATASCI 101			
<input type="checkbox"/> BIOPHYS/PHYSICS 290			
<input type="checkbox"/> EARTH 468			

BIOLOGY, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY MAJOR:

Group A: Gateway Biology Courses [2 courses, min. 6 credits] (Courses with an asterisk (*) may overlap with the lab requirement):

<input type="checkbox"/> Choose two courses from the Group A Course List			

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Choose two courses from the Group B Course List			

Group C: Core Biology Courses [2 courses, min. 6 credits] (Courses with an asterisk (*) may overlap with the lab requirement):

<input type="checkbox"/> Genetics: BIO 305			
<input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry: MCDB 310, BIOLCHEM 415, or CHEM 351			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ecology: BIOLOGY 281 or BIOLOGY 282			
<input type="checkbox"/> Evolution: EEB 390, EEB 391*, or EEB 392*			

Group D: Biology Elective [1 course, min. 3 credits] (A third course from Group A or Group C can be used here):

<input type="checkbox"/> BIOLOGY, EEB, or MCDB course at the 200-level, 300-level, or 400-level <i>(excluding BIOLOGY 200, 212, 241, 299, 312; MCDB/EEB 300, 301, 302, 312, 396, 397, 399, 400, 412, 494, 499; MCDB 360, 460; 461)</i>			
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Lab Course for Biology, Health, and Society (This requirement may OVERLAP with other major reqs.):

<input type="checkbox"/> Lab Requirement (<u>1 course</u> from the approved Bio Lab list is required; see attached.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.) 			
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Additional Course(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> Choose additional courses from Group E, if needed, to reach 24 major credit hours.			
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CONSTRAINTS:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 			
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Total Units and GPA Requirement for Biology, Health, and Society

<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum 24 cr. in Major			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.			