

Pre-Graduate School

This program is designed to provide the basic course requirements to prepare students to meet the entrance requirements for most graduate programs in biology. All graduate programs have slightly different entrance requirements; however, this program will provide students with a solid foundation of biological knowledge as well as a basic understanding of chemistry and physics.

Why Go to Graduate School?

Obtaining a post-baccalaureate degree will often expand your job opportunities and earning potential beyond that available to individuals with only a Bachelor degree. Graduate programs are more specialized than undergraduate curriculums, so they expand your knowledge of a particular area rather than duplicate the education you have already received. Furthermore, most graduate programs involve pursuing independent research as well as course work which provides a higher level of “hands on” experience than can usually be gained during undergraduate study.

Obtaining Information

If you are interested in going to graduate school it is best to obtain a broad undergraduate education until you have narrowed your area of interest to one or two areas. Then you can contact individual biology graduate programs to determine what graduate degrees and concentrations are offered.

Pre-Graduate School Track

This track provides the basic courses required for entrance into most graduate programs in biology. The course list below also satisfies the major requirements for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Biology.

- A. At least 65 units of Biology coursework, which includes the following:
 1. Biology 201, 202, 203
 2. Biology 304, 305 and 306
 3. Biology 310, 470 and 490
 4. Upper Division Electives (see below)
- B. Cognates
 1. 2 years of Chemistry:
Chemistry 211, 212, 213, 331, 332 and 333.
 2. 1 year of Physics:
Physics 201, 202, 203.
 3. Mathematics 211 and 212 or 201 and 202.
- C. Research Experience:
 1. Biology 480 or 496

Choice of upper division electives (to complete A) should be chosen based on area(s) of interest. For admission to graduate programs breadth in biology and a strong foundation in the cognates is often more important than course specialization. The following upper division courses are offered within each of the following subject areas:

Cell & Molecular Biology: Biology 312, 342, 424, 430, 433, and Chemistry 340.

Plant Science: Biology 321 and 462.

Animal Science: Biology 322, 324, 351, 424, 451, and 455.

Ecology: Biology 321, 322, 324, 404, 406, 451 and 462.

Microbiology: Biology 312, 314, 317, 318, 324, and Chemistry 340.

For more information contact:
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