

Definition

Biology is the study of life. Biological and Environmental Sciences covers all aspects of the study of life and emphasizes both the unity and diversity of living things. Special emphasis is placed on the relationship between structure and function, progressing through molecular, cellular, organismic and ecological levels of complexity. Evolutionary relationships are explained and illustrated.

Branches of biology such as anatomy, physiology, microbiology, zoology, botany, and ecology are concerned with the application of biological principles to human affairs.

Staff

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Program Description

This degree provides for the completion of general lower-division preparation associated with the requirements for a bachelor's degree in biology, biochemistry, botany, ecology, forestry, zoology, microbiology, medicine and other fields. It provides a broad, comprehensive overview of the main areas of biological science. The ability to critically think and use appropriate tools to solve biological questions will be emphasized. The various courses within the biology program also satisfy general education requirements, and nursing/health occupations requirements. The program also meets the needs of students interested in improving their knowledge in biologically related fields such as agriculture and athletics. The biological sciences program includes: anatomy, biology, microbiology, and physiology.

Students must receive a minimum grade of "C" or better in all required core courses and the specific courses listed as program electives in order to qualify for the degree or certificate.

Distinctive Features

The biology and environmental sciences discipline stresses both theoretical and applied aspects of the life sciences. Extracurricular projects and field trips are regular features of some courses. Well-equipped labs are used to provide excellent training in practical biological techniques.

Career Options

Agricultural Biologist

Bacteriologist

Biologist

Biotechnologist

Botanist

Clinical Lab Technologist

Curator

Dental Hygienist

Dentist

Ecologist

Environmental Scientist

Fish/Game Warden

Food/Drug Inspector

Geneticist

Horticulturist

Industrial Hygienist

Marine Biologist

Medical Technologist

Parasitologist

Physician
 Physician's Assistant
 Pharmaceutical Sales
 Physical Therapist
 Physiologist
 Public Health Technician
 Registered Nurse
 Teacher
 Veterinarian
 Wildlife Biologist
 Zoologist
 (Most of these careers require education beyond the two-year college level.)

Program Learning Outcomes

Associate in Science in Biology for Transfer

1. Demonstrate a practical working knowledge of the scientific method, and the ability to collect, evaluate, and analyze scientific data.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the cell structure, function, and chemistry at the molecular, cellular, tissue, and organismal levels.
3. Develop an understanding of the interactive role of living organisms in ecosystems and the environment.
4. Examine and evaluate the role of evolution and natural selection at the cellular and organismal levels.
5. Demonstrate the ability to use laboratory equipment and methods safely and proficiently as an individual or as a group.

Associate in Science in Biology

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Certificate Program

Certificate not applicable.

Associate Degree

Associate in Science in Biology for Transfer

Biology is the scientific study of life through the observation of structure, function, reproduction, growth, origin, evolution, and behavior of living organisms and their relation to each

other and their environment. Biologists have deepened our understanding of processes and interactions on all levels of biological organization from elucidating cellular processes to fight cancer to assessing interactions in communities that might help prevent the extinction of species. Studying biology provides a background for students to evaluate and understand new discoveries and to make informed decisions about the use of scientific knowledge to benefit all living organisms.

The AS-T in Biology is designed to prepare students for transfer to a baccalaureate degree program in biology, particularly at the California State University.

The Associate of Science in Biology for Transfer (AS-T) prepares student for upper division biology courses, including general biology, cell or molecular biology, organism biology, marine biology, botany, zoology, ecology, evolution, genetics, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and agricultural sciences.

To earn an Associate in Science in Biology for Transfer (AS-T in Biology) degree a student must complete the following:

(1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:

(A) The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education – Breadth Requirements.

(B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.

(2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs also require that students must earn a “C” or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis.

*This degree may only be earned by completing the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) for STEM or the California State University General Education – Breadth Requirements for STEM. Please consult a counselor for additional information.

Required Courses:	units
*BIOL 110, General Molecular Cell Biology	5
BIOL 120, General Organismal, Ecological and Evolutionary Biology	5

Required Electives A:	units
Select 23 units from the following:	
*CHEM 110, General Chemistry	5
CHEM 120, General Chemistry	5
*MATH 150, Calculus and Analytic Geometry	5
PHYS 101, Introductory Physics and	
PHYS 102, Introductory Physics	
OR	
PHYS 110, General Physics and	
PHYS 120, General Physics	8

*Courses denoted with an asterisk will fulfill the completion requirements for both the major and general education.

Associate in Science in Biology

An associate in science degree with a major in Biological Sciences is available. In addition to the GE requirements, the student should complete 18 units of required biology course work, and sufficient elective credits to total 60 units. Students who intend to transfer are strongly encouraged to complete either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education – Breadth (CSU GE) requirements. (See Graduation/Associate Degree Requirements and Transfer Information.)

Required Courses (10 units):	units
BIOL 110, General Molecular Cell Biology	5
BIOL 120, General Organismal, Ecological and Evolutionary Biology	5
Elective	8
Total	18

Program Electives (8 or more units):	units
BIOL 201, General Human Anatomy	4
BIOL 202, General Human Physiology	4
BIOL 204, General Microbiology	5
CHEM 110, 120, General Chemistry	10

Specific areas of study, e.g., Environmental Science, Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, etc. should be arranged with the assistance of the biology faculty. The faculty suggests that appropriate courses in chemistry, physics, and mathematics be taken concurrently with the biology courses.

Suggested Courses:	units
MATH 140, Precalculus	4
PHYS 101, 102, Introductory Physics	8

Completion of this degree is only a partial fulfillment of the requirements for transfer as a Biology major to an institution granting a baccalaureate degree. (See Graduation/Associate Degree Requirements.)

Transfer

Students planning to continue studies at a four-year college or university after AVC should visit the Transfer Resource Center and consult with a counselor as soon as possible. Additional information on official transfer articulation agreements from AVC to many CSU/UC campuses can be found at the following Web site: www.assist.org

Prerequisite Completion

If a course is listed as a prerequisite for another course, that prerequisite course must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of “A,” “B,” “C” or “P”. Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (*) before the course title. See “Pass/No Pass Option” in the catalog for full explanation.

Biological Sciences Courses**BIOL 100 ELEMENTARY HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

3 units

5 hours weekly

(2 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

This course covers the basic structure and function of the human body. Knowledge obtained may be used by students entering either an allied health science or non-transfer level field. (AVC)

BIOL 101 GENERAL BIOLOGY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment in BIOL 101L.

A general education non-major biology course designed to acquaint the students with the nature of science, the unity of life processes, the diversity of living things, the interdependence of organisms in the biosphere, the mechanisms that have shaped life on Earth, and with humans as biological entities. This course has a corequisite and must be taken concurrently with BIOL 101L. **NOTE:** Biology majors should take BIOL 110 and BIOL 120 instead of this course. (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 101L GENERAL BIOLOGY LAB

1 units

3 hours weekly

Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment in BIOL 101.

A general education non-major laboratory biology course designed to be corequisite and taken concurrently with BIOL 101 to acquaint the students with the nature of science, the unity of life processes, the diversity of living things, the interdependence of organisms in the biosphere. the mechanisms that have shaped life on Earth, and with humans as biological entities. The laboratory focuses on the kinds of living things, and the structures and functions they share. **NOTE:** Biology majors should take BIOL 110 and BIOL 120 instead of this course. (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 102 *HUMAN BIOLOGY

4 units

6 hours weekly

(3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading, ENGL 101.

This course explores the principles of biology using the human species as its primary tool. It is an introductory level, transfer course designed for non-science majors, students who want to further their professional development, or to enrich their knowledge of biology in general and their bodies in particular. Topics discussed include the scientific method, cell biology, genetics, evolution, aging, major concepts of structure, function and pathology of most organ systems, as well as how humans interact with their internal and external environment. (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 103 INTRODUCTION TO BOTANY

4 units

6 hours weekly

(3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

This is an introduction course in the study of plants. This course deals with the structure of plants, how plants grow and function and types of plants. Plant ecology and geography will also be discussed. (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 104 ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

A general education biology course dealing with current environmental issues. Topics include environmental sustainability, ecological principles, human population impact, energy, climate change, species extinction, pollution and toxic wastes. (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 110 GENERAL MOLECULAR CELL BIOLOGY

5 units

7 hours weekly

(4 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

Prerequisite: Completion of MATH 102 and CHEM 110.

Advisory: Completion of a general biology course is recommended, and Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

A comprehensive and in-depth introduction for all biology majors (as well as physics, chemistry, engineering, computer science, and math majors who will concern themselves with biology) to the unifying principles of modern cellular biology, molecular biology and biochemistry. Topics include the structure of the atom, quantum mechanics, the nature of the chemical bond, general principles of thermodynamics and equilibrium, prokaryotic and eukaryotic cell structure, lipid chemistry and membrane biology, protein structure and function, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) and their role in protein synthesis, principles of classical and molecular genetics, the control of gene expression, cell signalling systems, molecular embryology, evolutionary developmental biology, and biotechnology. Lab work includes investigations with live bacteria, protists, flowering plants and fruit flies as model organisms, and includes experiments in photosynthesis, enzymology, gel electrophoresis, genetics and biotechnology. This course stresses evolutionary mechanisms. (C-ID: BIOL 190) (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 120 GENERAL ORGANISMAL, ECOLOGICAL AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

5 units

7 hours weekly

(4 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

Prerequisite: Completion of MATH 102.

Advisory: Completion of a general biology course and/or BIOL 110.

A comprehensive, in-depth course designed for biology majors to complement the cell molecular perspective presented in BIOL 110. A survey of unicellular and multicellular organisms, emphasizing morphology, systematics, evolution, physiology, heredity, development, behavior and ecology. Laboratories consist of dissection and analysis of representative taxa and student projects. Data analysis and preparation of scientific reports are taught and applied to individual research projects. (C-ID: BIOL 140) (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 201 GENERAL HUMAN ANATOMY

4 units

8 hours weekly

(2 hours lecture, 6 hours lab)

Prerequisite: Completion of BIOL 100 or 101 or 102 or 110 or 120.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading.

Introduction to the structure and function of the human body. Included are lectures and demonstrations using models, isolated specimens and multimedia images of human anatomy. Laboratory study includes demonstrations and dissections of a cat and other animal and human material, including the cadaver. Completion of this class requires full participation and use of all lab materials. **NOTE:** This course is taken by students who wish to enter the Associate Degree Nursing Program, students who plan to combine their education in various healthcare fields, and students who plan to transfer to four-year institutions to major in biology. (C-ID: BIOL 110B) (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 202 GENERAL HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

4 units

6 hours weekly

(3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

Prerequisite: Completion of BIOL 201 and CHEM 101.

An analysis of basic processes of the human body, emphasizing the coordinated physical and chemical mechanisms of cell biology, neuromuscular, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, skeletal, integumentary, immune, renal, endocrine and reproductive systems. Includes work with computerized instrumentation and living animals. Completion of this course requires full participation and use of all laboratory materials. **NOTE:** This course is necessary for students entering many healthcare professions including the Associate Degree Nursing Program. It is also applicable for transfer students in the biological sciences. (C-ID: BIOL 120B) (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 204 GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY

5 units

9 hours weekly

(3 hours lecture, 6 hours lab)

Prerequisite: *Completion of BIOL 101 or 110 or 120, and CHEM 101.*

Advisory: *Completion of BIOL 201, BIOL 202, CHEM 102, COMM 103 and ENGL 101.*

This course is designed to present an overview of the biology of microorganisms including bacteria, viruses, protozoa, fungi and helminths. Information is directed towards students in preprofessional programs for nursing, dental hygiene, surgical technology, physicians assistant, food science, environmental monitoring, animal and crop sciences as well as biological science majors. Wherever possible, new development in Biotechnology, Virology and Immunology are discussed to provide students with current knowledge in this important field of science. The laboratory introduces a broad spectrum of microorganisms and the concepts and techniques required to identify and classify unknown bacteria. (CSU, UC, AVC)

BIOL 205 *INTRODUCTION TO BIOTECHNOLOGY

3 units

5 hours weekly

(2 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

Prerequisite: *Completion of BIOL 110 or higher, and CHEM 101 or higher.*

Advisory: *Completion of BIOL 204.*

The course will introduce the student to theoretical and applied concepts of Biotechnology- the use of living organisms or their products to enhance our lives and our environment. The content will cover the concepts of DNA structure, gene expression and protein synthesis. The laboratory techniques used in the Biotechnology industry will be learned and practiced by the students, including keeping a detailed lab notebook, learning and using calculations for solution preparation, preparing and analyzing DNA and protein samples by enzyme digest and gel electrophoresis, amplifying DNA by Polymerase Chain Reaction, and isolation of protein and DNA with separation techniques. Applications of these techniques in the Agricultural, Medical, Pharmaceutical and Forensic fields will be discussed. (CSU, UC, AVC)