ADVISING SHEET: *ACCELERATED PROGRAM*
B. S. IN BIOLOGY: ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION + M.S. IN BIOLOGY
Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

I. ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS & DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	*Course*	*Credits*	*Term*	*Year*	*Grade*
First Year Experience	FYE 100	4			
Effective Writing I	WRT 120 or 123	3			
Effective Writing II	WRT 200	3			
Mathematics: Statistics	MAT 121♠ or 125♠	3			
Interdisciplinary ("INT")		3			
Diverse Communities ("DIV")	♥	3			
Ethics ("ETH")	♥	3			

Writing Emphasis ("WRT") *Nine credits♣, integrated across General Education & Major courses.*

	BIO 211	4			
One at 300/400-level:					

Speaking Emphasis ("SPE") *Nine credits♣, integrated across General Education & Major courses.*

One at 300/400-level:	BIO 490/491/492	3			

II. GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTIVE REQUIREMENTS

- *Courses must be selected from the approved General Education list (see the catalog).*
- *Interdisciplinary courses cannot also be a General Education distributive course.*
- *Biology majors fulfill their science requirements with CHE 103 and PHY 130/170.*
- *Distributive requirements can be simultaneously satisfied with other degree requirements, see some examples♦.*

A. **Behavioral and Social Sciences** (6 credits): E.g., Psychology (PSY), Sociology (SOC), Anthropology (ANT), Political Science (PSC), Geography (GEO), Economics (ECO)

Courses must be selected from two different subject areas.
Note: Students taking the MCAT should take PSY 100 and SOC 100.

	3			
	3			

B. Humanities (6 credits): E.g., Literature (LIT/CLS), History (HIS), Philosophy (PHI)

Courses must be selected from two different subject areas.

	3			
	3			

C. **Arts** (3 credits): E.g., Art (ART), Art History (ARH), Dance (DAN), Film (FLM), Music (MHL, MTC), Theater (THA)

	3			

III. DIRECTED ELECTIVES – 13 credits (as many as needed to reach 120 total credits)

_____	____	_____	_____	_____	
_____	____	_____	_____	_____	
_____	____	_____	_____	_____	
_____	____	_____	_____	_____	
_____	____	_____	_____	_____	

IV. SUPPORTING COURSES (28-29 credits)

Calculus♠*	MAT 143/145/161	3-4	_____	_____	_____
General Chemistry I Lecture	CHE 103	3	_____	_____	_____
General Chemistry I Lab	CRL 103	1	_____	_____	_____
General Chemistry II Lecture	CHE 104	3	_____	_____	_____
General Chemistry II Lab	CRL 104	1	_____	_____	_____
Organic Chemistry I Lecture	CHE 231	4	_____	_____	_____
Organic Chemistry I Lab	CRL 231	2	_____	_____	_____
Organic Chemistry II Lecture	CHE 232	3	_____	_____	_____
General Physics I – lecture + lab	PHY 130 + PHY 130L	4	_____	_____	_____
General Physics II – lecture + lab	PHY 140 + PHY 140L	4	_____	_____	_____

V. BIOLOGY COURSES (42 credits; 30 credits taken at the undergraduate level, 12 credits taken at the graduate level are applied to the B.S.) Must have 3.00 GPA for graduate admission.

A. *Required Core Courses* (16 credits)

General Biology I – lecture + lab***	BIO 110 + BIO 110L	4	_____	_____	_____
General Biology II – lecture + lab***	BIO 111 + BIO 111L	4	_____	_____	_____
Genetics Lecture***	BIO 210	3	_____	_____	_____
Genetics Lab***	BIO 210L	1	_____	_____	_____
Cell Biology – lecture + lab***	BIO 211 + BIO 211L	4	_____	_____	_____

B. *Other Required Courses* (6 credits)

General Ecology – lecture + lab***	BIO 270 + BIO 270L	3	_____	_____	_____
Biostatistical Applications – lecture + lab***	BIO 310 + BIO 310L	3	_____	_____	_____

C. *Biology Electives* (3 credits)

Select courses under advisement from the list below.

> ***Important Note:*** *Many BIO courses include both a lecture and a required laboratory component that* ***must be taken together in the same semester*** *(*e.g.*, BIO 123 + BIO 123L). Students are responsible for ensuring they are enrolled in both in the same semester.*

_____	____	_____	_____	_____	

D. *Ecology-Related Electives* (6 credits)

Select courses under advisement from the list below.

_____	____	_____	_____	_____	
_____	____	_____	_____	_____	

Biology Electives to be selected from:

BIO 277	Vertebrate Ecology	BIO 453	Marine Mammals
BIO 312	Marine Botany	BIO 454	Mycology
BIO 313	Marine Biology	BIO 466	Plant Physiology
BIO 315	Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology	BIO 470	Population Biology
BIO 377	Entomology	BIO 471	Wetlands
BIO 387	Invertebrate Zoology	BIO 473	Conservation Biology
BIO 391	Research in Biology	BIO 474	Microbial Ecology
BIO 392	Internship in Biology	BIO 475	Plant Communities
BIO 412	Organic Evolution	BIO 476	Freshwater Ecology
BIO 415	Tropical Ecology & Conservation	BIO 478	Plant Evolution
		BIO 485	Systematic Botany

Ecology-Related Electives to be selected from:

Department of Biology		**Department of Geology & Astronomy**	
Any Biology Ecology Elective (above)		ESS 301	Environmental Geochemistry
BIO 214	General Microbiology	ESS 330	Introduction to Oceanography
BIO 457	Functional Animal Morphology	ESS 332	Advanced Oceanography
BIO 464	Microbial Physiology	ESS 336	Environmental Geology
BIO 468	Comparative Vertebrate Physiology	ESS 343	Geomorphology
		ESS 435	Remote Sensing
Department of Chemistry		ESS 439	Hydrogeology
CHE 232	Organic Chemistry II	ESS 490	Fundamentals of Soil
CHE 321	Analytical Chemistry I		
CHE 403	Chemistry of the Environment	**Department of Geography & Planning**	
CHE 424	Advanced Analytical Chemistry	GEO 225	Introduction to Maps & Remote Sensing
CRL 321	Experimental Analytical Chemistry I	GEO 316	Planning for Resilient Communities & Natural Disasters
CRL 424	Advanced Analytical Chemistry Lab	GEO 324	Introduction to GIS
		GEO 332	Environmental Crises
Department of Health		GEO 336	Environmental Planning
ENV 324	Environmental Sustainability	GEO 338	Environmental Applications of GIS
ENV 447	Environmental Regulations	GEO 341	Landscape Ecology
ENV 451	Environmental Toxicology	GEO 401	Internet Mapping
ENV 462	Water Quality and Health	GEO 402	Field Methods in Environmental Geography
		GEO 424	GIS Applications
Department of Psychology		PLN 320	Land Use Planning
PSY 335	Animal Behavior		
PSY 336	Animal Behavior Lab	**Department of Political Science**	
PSY 490	Course topics: Primate Behavior & Culture	PSC 354	Environmental Politics & Policy
ANT/PSY 230	Introduction to Primatology		
		Department of Economics	
		ECO 385	Environmental and Resource Economics

VII. GRADUATE COURSES (30 credits)

A. *Core Courses* (12 credits)

Graduate Seminar in Biology	BIO 510	3	_____	_____	_____
Experimental Design & Analysis	BIO 511	3	_____	_____	_____
Topics & Methods in Cellular Microbial, and Molecular Biology	BIO 520	3	_____	_____	_____
Topics & Methods in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology	BIO 521	3	_____	_____	_____

B. *Electives* ξ (9 credits)

_____	____	_____	_____	_____	
_____	____	_____	_____	_____	
_____	____	_____	_____	_____	

C. *Research and Capstone* Σ (9 credits)

Thesis Proposal △	BIO 608	3	_____	_____	_____
Thesis Research	BIO 609	3	_____	_____	_____
Thesis and Defense	BIO 610	3	_____	_____	_____

Notes and Requirements

Ω The Accelerated B.S. + M.S. program is only open to thesis students. Students should begin discussing topics with prospective faculty advisors during the 2nd year in preparation for the accelerated program during their 3rd year.

Credit requirements: B.S.: 120 credits; M.S.: 30 credits. Twelve credits taken at the graduate level are also applied to the B.S. degree. Therefore, the total for both degrees is 138 credits.

♥ The Diverse Communities ("DIV") course and the Ethics ("ETH") courses can be satisfied through another requirement (e.g., General Education Distributive) as long as the course carries the appropriate attribute(s). *Note*: Credits are not duplicated such that if a course satisfies two requirements, those credits must be made up via directed electives (the minimum total credits for a B.S. degree is 120).

♣ Students must take at least 9 credits of Writing Emphasis courses and 9 credits of Speaking Emphasis courses. Students who enter WCU with 30-60 transfer credits only need 6 credits of each; students who enter with 61-90 transfer credits only need 3 credits of each. **All students with < 91 transfer credits must take at least 3 credits of Writing Emphasis and 3 credits of Speaking Emphasis at the 300-400 level.** Students who enter WCU with > 90 transfer credits are exempt from all Writing and Speaking Emphasis courses.

♦ Students should think about how requirements can be simultaneously satisfied. As examples: LNC 110 is a Humanities distributive that satisfies the Ethics requirement; PHI 180 is a Humanities distributive that satisfies the Diverse Communities & Ethics requirements; LIT 165 is a Humanities distributive that is also Writing Emphasis; PSC 101 is a Behavioral & Social Science distributive that satisfies the Diverse Communities requirement.

ξ Any other 500-level BIO course except BIO 591. If a course is offered at both the 400 and 500 levels, the student must take the 500-level course. No more than 6 credits of 400-level courses may be counted toward the M.S. degree. With prior departmental approval, up to 6 credits of graduate course work from another department or university may be applied toward the M.S. degree. BIO 535, 536, and 537 may be repeated for credit provided the topic is different.

Σ A letter grade must be obtained for BIO 608 before the student can enroll in BIO 609. Likewise, a letter grade must be obtained for BIO 609 before the student can enroll in BIO 610.

♠ All students will need to complete the Math Placement Exam before they can enroll in MAT courses. For information, please visit the Math Department website. Please direct any questions to mathexam@wcupa.edu.

* The Biology Department recommends MAT 145 (Calculus for the Life Sciences; 3 credits) or MAT 161 (Calculus I; 4 credits). MAT 143 (Brief Calculus; 3 credits) is also acceptable. You must meet the necessary pre-requisites or obtain a minimum score on the Math Placement Exam♠ to enroll in a calculus class. Visit the Math Department website to take the exam. If you receive a score of 60 or lower on the exam, you must take MAT 113 (Algebra and Functions) or MAT 115 (Algebra, Functions, and Trigonometry) as preparation for Calculus (MAT 143 or MAT 145). If you score a 44 or lower, you will need to take MAT 112 (Algebra and Functions with Support) before you can enroll in MAT 113 or MAT 115. If you score 29 or lower, you will need to take MAT Q30 before you can enroll in MAT 112. If you receive a score of 61 or above, you can enroll directly into MAT 143 or MAT 145. You must score a 75 or above to enroll into MAT 161 or take the pre-requisite of MAT 131. Students can repeat the math placement exam to improve their score.

** The recommended Physics sequence is PHY 130 & PHY 140. Students may substitute the PHY 170 & PHY 180 sequence, but PHY 130 may not be used as a prerequisite for PHY 180 and PHY 170 may not be used as a prerequisite for PHY 140.

*** Course must be passed with a "C-" or better.

△ To be considered for the accelerated program and enroll in BIO 608 (Thesis Proposal), students must have attained (completed) 75 credits with a minimum of 18 biology credits. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 including a minimum GPA of 3.00 for biology courses. BIO 608 requires departmental permission to enroll; students must arrange a committee meeting prior to enrolling in BIO 608 (*e.g.*, during their third year). The accelerated program is only open to thesis students. Any student wishing to switch out of the thesis option will be required to complete all requirements for the B.S. degree. Once admitted to the graduate program, graduate policies apply, including minimum GPA (3.00). *See the Graduate Catalog for further details*.

Σ A letter grade must be obtained for BIO 608 before the student can enroll in BIO 609. Likewise, a letter grade must be obtained for BIO 609 before the student can enroll in BIO 610.

Suggested Sequence for Accelerated B.S. + M.S. Biology Majors

Ecology & Conservation Concentration

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

	Semester #1 (15 credits)		**Semester #2 (17 credits)**
____	FYE 100 (4)	____	WRT 200 (3)
____	WRT 120 (3)	____	BIO 111 + 111L (4)
____	BIO 110 + 110L (4)	____	CHE 104 (3) & CRL 104 (1)
____	CHE 103 (3) & CRL 103 (1)	____	MAT 121 or MAT 125 (3)
		____	Gen Ed Distributive: Behavioral & Social Science (3)
	Semester #3 (16 credits)		**Semester #4 (16 credits)**
____	BIO 210 (3) & BIO 210L (1)	____	BIO 211 + 211L (WRT) (4)
____	CHE 231 (4) & CRL 231 (2)	____	BIO 270 + 270L (3)
____	Diverse Communities Course (DIV) (3)	____	CHE 232 (3)
____	Gen Ed Distributive: Humanities & Ethics Course (ETH) (3)	____	MAT 145 (3) or MAT 143 (3) /161 (4)
		____	Gen Ed Distributive: Arts (3)
	Semester #5 (16 credits)		**Semester #6 (16 credits)**
____	BIO ECOLOGY Elective (3)	____	BIO 310 + 310L (3)
____	PHY 130 + 130L (4)	____	Ecology-Related Elective (3)
____	Directed Elective (WRT) (3)	____	PHY 140 + 140L (4)
____	Gen Ed Distributive: Humanities (3)	____	Interdisciplinary Course (INT) (3)
____	Gen Ed Distributive: Behavioral & Social Science (3)	____	Speaking Emphasis Course (SPE) (3)
	Semester #7 △ (14 credits)		**Semester #8 (15 credits)**
____	BIO 510 (3)	____	Ecology-Related Elective (3)
____	BIO 520 (3)	____	BIO 511 (3)
____	Directed Elective (2)	____	BIO 521 (3)
____	Upper-level Directed Elective (WRT)(3)	____	Directed Elective (3)
____	BIO 608 △ (3)	____	Directed Elective (3)
	Semester #9 (9 credits)		**Semester #10 (6 credits)**
____	Graduate-level BIO Elective (3)	____	Graduate-level BIO Elective (3)
____	Graduate-level BIO Elective (3)	____	BIO 610 (3)
____	BIO 609 (3)		

- All required 200 level Biology courses should be completed by the end of Semester #5.
- Students should take Statistics (MAT 121 or 125) in the first year.
- Students must take at least 9 credits of Writing Emphasis courses and 9 credits of Speaking Emphasis courses. Students who enter WCU with 30-60 transfer credits only need 6 credits of each; students who enter with 61-90 transfer credits only need 3 credits of each. **All students with < 91 transfer credits must take at least 3 credits of Writing Emphasis and 3 credits of Speaking Emphasis at the 300-400 level.** Students who enter WCU with > 90 transfer credits are exempt from all Writing and Speaking Emphasis courses.