

ADVISING SHEET: *ACCELERATED PROGRAM*

B. S. IN BIOLOGY: INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY + M.S. IN BIOLOGY – THESIS OPTION

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

I. ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS & DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Grade</i>
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.*

	<u>BIO 211</u>	<u>4</u>	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>One at 300/400-level:</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Speaking Emphasis (“SPE”) *Nine credits[♦], integrated across General Education & Major courses.*

	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>One at 300/400-level:</i>	<u>BIO 490/491/492</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	_____	_____

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	_____	_____	_____
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III. DIRECTED ELECTIVES – 15 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 (3 credits)

General Ecology – lecture + lab***	BIO 270 + BIO 270L	3	_____	_____	_____
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C. Biology Electives (11 credits)

Select courses under advisement from BIO 214, BIO 277, or BIO courses at or above the 300 level (except BIO 307). Because of content overlap, students may take either BIO 468 or BIO 469 for Biology Elective credit, but not both

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. Graduate Core Courses (12 graduate credits, see below)

VI. 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 [§] (9 credits)

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.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Research and Capstone ^Σ (9 credits)

Thesis Proposal ^Δ	BIO 608	3	_____	_____	_____
Thesis Research	BIO 609	3	_____	_____	_____
Thesis and Defense	BIO 610	3	_____	_____	_____

Notes and Requirements

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.

^Ω Students should begin discussing research topics with prospective faculty advisors during their 3rd year in preparation for graduate courses during their 4th year.

♥ 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.

♠ 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](http://mathexam@wcupa.edu). 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](http://mathexam@wcupa.edu) 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 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). 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

Integrative Biology Concentration – Thesis Option

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

_____	Semester #1 (15 credits) FYE 100 (4) WRT 120 (3) BIO 110 + 110L (4) CHE 103 (3) & CRL 103 (1)	_____	Semester #2 (17 credits) WRT 200 (3) BIO 111 + 111L (4) CHE 104 (3) & CRL 104 (1) MAT 121 or MAT 125 (3) Gen Ed Distributive: Behavioral & Social Science (3)
_____	Semester #3 (16 credits) BIO 210 (3) & BIO 210L (1) CHE 231 (4) & CRL 231 (2) Diverse Communities Course (DIV) (3) Gen Ed Distributive: Humanities & Ethics Course (ETH) (3)	_____	Semester #4 (16-17 credits) BIO 211 + 211L (WRT) (4) CHE 232 (3) MAT 145 (3) or MAT 143 (3) /161 (4) Gen Ed Distributive: Arts (3) Gen Ed Distributive: Behavioral & Social Science (3)
_____	Semester #5 ^Ω (16 credits) BIO 270 + 270L (3) BIO Elective (3) PHY 130 + 130L (4) Directed Elective (3) Gen Ed Distributive: Humanities (3)	_____	Semester #6 (16 credits) BIO Elective (3) BIO Elective (3) PHY 140 + 140L (4) Interdisciplinary Course (INT) (3) Speaking Emphasis Course (SPE) (3)
_____	Semester #7 (14 credits) BIO 510 (3) BIO 520 (3) Directed Elective (2) Upper-level Directed Elective (WRT)(3) BIO 608 ^Δ (3)	_____	Semester #8 (12 credits) BIO 511 (3) BIO 521 (3) Directed Elective (3) Directed Elective (3)
_____	Semester #9 (9 credits) BIO Elective (3) Graduate-level BIO Elective (3) BIO 609 ^Σ (3)	_____	Semester #10 (9 credits) Graduate-level BIO Elective (3) Graduate-level BIO Elective (3) BIO 610 ^Σ (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.