

ADVISING SHEET:

B. S. IN BIOLOGY: ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION CONCENTRATION

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 _____ _____ _____

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

Courses must be selected from two different subject areas.

_____ 3 _____ _____ _____

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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 (25-26 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 ^Ω	CHE 231	4	_____	_____	_____
Organic Chemistry I Lab	CRL 231	2	_____	_____	_____
General Physics I – lecture + lab	PHY 130 + PHY 130L	4	_____	_____	_____
General Physics II – lecture + lab	PHY 140 + PHY 140L	4	_____	_____	_____

V. BIOLOGY COURSES (40 credits) -- GPA must be 2.0 or higher to graduate.

A. Required Core Courses (19 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	_____	_____	_____
Biology Capstone*** [△]	BIO 490 + BIO 490S or BIO 491 or BIO 492	3	_____	_____	_____

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 [△] (15 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.

Biology Ecology 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

VI. ECOLOGY-RELATED ELECTIVES (6 credits)

To be chosen under advisement from Biology Department approved list below. Student-originated requests to use a course not on the list to fulfill this requirement must be signed by their Advisor, then by the Department Chair.

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

Notes and Requirements

Total degree program: 120 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.

♣ 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.

◊ While only CHE 231 is required for the major, students considering graduate studies should consult with their academic advisor regarding using CHE 232 as an Ecology-Related Elective, as some graduate programs require the course for admission.

** 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.

△ Students may only do one Capstone course (BIO 490/491/492). Students taking BIO 490/491/492 must be aware that they are fulfilling a Capstone requirement, the credits will not also count as Biology Electives. A maximum of 3 combined credits from BIO 391 and BIO 392 may be applied to the total Biology Elective credits.

Suggested Sequence for B.S. Biology Majors

Ecology & Conservation Concentration

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) Gen Ed Distributive: Arts (3) Gen Ed Distributive: Humanities & Ethics Course (ETH) (3)		Semester #4 (16-17 credits) BIO 211 + 211L (WRT) (4) BIO 270 + 270L (3) BIO ECOLOGY Elective (3) MAT 145 (3) or MAT 143 (3) /161 (4) Gen Ed Distributive: Behavioral & Social Science (3)
	Semester #5 (13 credits) BIO ECOLOGY Elective (3) PHY 130 + 130L (4) Diverse Communities Course (DIV) (3) Directed Elective (WRT) (3)		Semester #6 (16 credits) BIO 310 + 310L (3) BIO ECOLOGY Elective (3) PHY 140 + 140L (4) Interdisciplinary Course (INT) (3) Speaking Emphasis Course (SPE) (3)
	Semester #7 (15 credits) BIO ECOLOGY Elective (3) Ecology-Related Elective (3) Directed Elective (3) (if needed) Upper-level Directed Elective (WRT)(3) Gen Ed Distributive: Humanities (3)		Semester #8 (12 credits) BIO ECOLOGY Elective (3) Ecology-Related Elective (3) Directed Elective (3) (if needed) BIO 490/491/492 (SPE) (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.