Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 11/20/25 2:05 pm

Viewing: SC-BA-BIOL : Biology, BA

Last approved: 06/06/25 2:39 pm

Last edit: 01/09/26 2:19 pm

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

Catalog Pages Using this Program

Biology, BA

No Longer Anticipated closure

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

In Workflow

1. **BIOL Program Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Assistant Dean
4. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
5. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 11/20/25 7:51 pm Geraldine Grant (ggrant1): Approved for BIOL Program Chair
2. 11/24/25 12:24 pm Gregory Craft (gcraft): Approved for SC Curriculum Committee
3. 12/01/25 9:24 am Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz): Rollback to SC Curriculum Committee for SC Assistant Dean

History

1. Oct 23, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Mar 16, 2018 by rzachari
3. Dec 4, 2018 by Jennifer Bazaz

Gettys (jbazaz)
4. Feb 1, 2019 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
5. Mar 11, 2019 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
6. Feb 10, 2020 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
7. Mar 24, 2020 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
8. Apr 2, 2020 by jriemen
9. Oct 30, 2020 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
10. Mar 4, 2021 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
11. Oct 1, 2021 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
12. May 10, 2022 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
13. May 17, 2022 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
14. Jul 14, 2022 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
15. Jan 25, 2023 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
16. Apr 13, 2023 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
17. Apr 29, 2024 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
18. Apr 4, 2025 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)

19. May 12, 2025 by Christina Theodorou (ctheodo)
20. May 12, 2025 by Christina Theodorou (ctheodo)
21. Jun 6, 2025 by Christina Theodorou (ctheodo)

Name	Extension	Email
Val Olmo	5302	volmo

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

Program Level: Undergraduate

Program Type: Bachelor's

Degree Type: Bachelor of Arts

Title: Biology, BA

5. Is this badge co-

Banner Title: Biology, BA

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Status Approved

Registrar's Office Use Only – Program Start Term

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Letter

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status

Concentration(s):

	Associated Concentrations	Registrar's Office Use Only: Concentration Code
1	Biological Illustration	BIOI
2	Biological Health	BIOH

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Concentration CIP Code

College/School: College of Science

Department / Academic Unit: Biology

Jointly Owned Program? No

Is there an embedded degree as part of a program?

Justification

What: Moving BIOL 214 and BIOL 400 to the core.

Why: To remain compliant with the Honors in Biology program, we've moved BIOL 214 from the Math requirement to a core requirement. BIOL 400 is our new writing intensive course.

Total Credits Required: Total credits: minimum 120

Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:

SC-BA-BIOL

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Program CIP Code 26.0101 - Biology/Biological Sciences, General.

Admission Requirements:

Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the Undergraduate Admissions Policies section of this catalog.
To apply for this program, please complete the George Mason University Admissions Application.
For students interested in taking the Biological Health concentration, it is advised that they have already obtained a bachelor's degree; this concentration is primarily intended for students who are interested in changing their careers to one with a biology foundation. The BA's other concentration, or the Biology, BS are great options for students early in their undergraduate studies.

Program-Specific Policies: Policies

Students must fulfill all Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees, including the Mason Core. Students in this bachelor's program must also complete the additional College Requirements for the BA Degree (see Requirements).
The writing intensive requirement is fulfilled by BIOL 400 News Views: Selected Topics(Mason Core) ~~BIOL 308 Foundations of Ecology and Evolution(Mason Core)~~ or MLAB 300 Science Writing(Mason Core).

- For post-baccalaureate students enrolled in the Biological Health concentration, BIOL 400 News Views: Selected Topics(Mason Core) ~~BIOL 308 Foundations of Ecology and Evolution(Mason Core)~~ or MLAB 300 Science Writing(Mason Core) are not required.

Post-baccalaureate students entering this program are advised to explore the Application for a Second Bachelor's Degree and the AP. 5.3.3 sections of this catalog.
Important information and departmental policies are listed with the Department of Biology.
For policies governing all undergraduate programs, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Important Program Requirements

- Biology majors must earn a minimum grade of 'C' in all courses under the "Biology Core Courses" header.
- **Upper-level Courses:** At least 45 credits counted toward the degree must be from 300-400 level courses.
  - At least one of which must be an approved upper-level laboratory.
  - BIOL 495 Directed Studies in Biology, and BIOL 497 Special Problems in Biology do not count toward the upper-level laboratory course requirement. The courses do, however, count as non-laboratory electives.
    - The total limit forBIOL 493 Honors Research in Biology, BIOL 495 Directed Studies in BiologyandBIOL 497 Special Problems in Biologycombined is 3 credits toward the BA.
- Students may **not** count BIOL 124 Human Anatomy and Physiology I and/or BIOL 125 Human Anatomy and Physiology II as a biology elective**,** but may be taken as a general elective.
- Students who transfer in both BIOL 303 Animal Biology and BIOL 304 Plant Biology will satisfy BIOL 300 BioDiversity plus four credits of biology elective coursework.

Teacher Licensure

Students majoring in biology who wish to pursue a career teaching secondary school may consider applying for the Secondary Education - Biology (6-12) Undergraduate Certificate offered by the College of Education and Human Development as an option in seeking an initial Virginia teaching license.
Other routes to licensure include the Biology, BA or BS/Curriculum and Instruction, Accelerated MEd (Secondary Education Biology Concentration) or select traditional Master's programs. Please contact the undergraduate advisor

in the College of Education and Human Development for more information.

Degree Requirements: Students should refer to the Admissions & Policies tab for specific policies related to this program.

All students must complete the *Biology Core Courses* and the *Supporting Core Courses* listed below. Students then elect to complete the BA degree either with or without a concentration.

Biology Core Courses

BIOL 102	Introductory Biology I-Survey of Biodiversity and Ecology(Mason Core)	4
BIOL 103 & BIOL 105	Introductory Biology II-Survey of Cell and Molecular Biology(Mason Core) and Introductory Biology II Laboratory(Mason Core) [1]	4
BIOL 213 & BIOL 215	Cell Structure and Function and Cell Structure and Function Laboratory	4
BIOL 214	Biostatistics for Biology Majors	4
BIOL 308 & BIOL 338	Foundations of Ecology and Evolution(Mason Core) and Foundations of Ecology and Evolution Laboratory(Mason Core) [1]	4
or BIOL 300	BioDiversity	
BIOL 311 & BIOL 313	General Genetics and Course BIOL 313 Not Found	4
BIOL 400	News Views: Selected Topics(Mason Core) [2]	3
Total Credits		27

1 For post-baccalaureate students enrolled in the Biological Health concentration, BIOL 103 Introductory Biology II-Survey of Cell and Molecular Biology(Mason Core), BIOL 105 Introductory Biology II Laboratory(Mason Core), BIOL 300 BioDiversity, BIOL 308 Foundations of Ecology and Evolution(Mason Core) , BIOL 338 Foundations of Ecology and Evolution Laboratory(Mason Core) are not required.

2 Fulfills the writing intensive requirement.

Supporting Core Courses

Chemistry		
CHEM 211 & CHEM 213	General Chemistry I(Mason Core) and General Chemistry Laboratory I(Mason Core)	4
CHEM 212 & CHEM 214	General Chemistry II(Mason Core) and General Chemistry Laboratory II(Mason Core)	4
Mathematics		

Select one option from the following:		4-6
MATH 111	Linear Mathematical Modeling(Mason Core)	
MATH 113	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I(Mason Core)	
MATH 123 & MATH 124	Calculus with Algebra/Trigonometry, Part A and Calculus with Algebra/Trigonometry, Part B(Mason Core)	
Computer Science		**3**
Select one from the following: [1]		
CDS 130	Computing for Scientists(Mason Core) [2]	
Any course(s) that fulfill the Mason Core: Information Technology requirement		
Additional Science		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
ASTR 103	Astronomy(Mason Core)	
ASTR 111	The Solar System(Mason Core)	
ASTR 113	Stars, Galaxies, and the Universe(Mason Core)	
GEOL 101	Physical Geology(Mason Core)	
GEOL 102	Historical Geology(Mason Core)	
PHYS 160	University Physics I(Mason Core)	
PHYS 243	College Physics I(Mason Core) [3]	
PHYS 244	College Physics I Lab(Mason Core) [3]	
PHYS 245	College Physics II(Mason Core) [3]	
PHYS 246	College Physics II Lab(Mason Core) [3]	
PHYS 260	University Physics II(Mason Core)	
Total Credits		21-23

1 For post-baccalaureate students enrolled in the Biological Health concentration, the Computer Science requirement is not required.

2 Recommended by the Department of Biology.

3 Required for students enrolled in the Biological Health Concentration.

Biology Elective Options

Students must complete 8-12 credits of additional biology courses, at least 1 credit of which must be in an upper-level laboratory, and no more than 4 credits can be in lower-level courses:		8-12
Non-lab Courses [1]		
BIOL 101	Biology Freshman Seminar	
BIOL 177	Introductory Ecology for Environmental Engineers	
BIOL 302	Alternative Careers in Biology	
BIOL 305	Biology of Microorganisms	
BIOL 309	Oceanography	
or EVPP 309	Oceanography	
or GEOL 309	Oceanography	
BIOL 312	Biostatistics for Bioinformatics	
BIOL 318	Conservation Biology	
BIOL 322	Developmental Biology	
BIOL 326	Animal Physiology	
BIOL 331	Invertebrate Zoology	
BIOL 334	Vertebrate Paleontology	
or GEOL 334	Vertebrate Paleontology(Mason Core)	
BIOL 336	Invertebrate Paleontology	
BIOL 345	Plant Ecology	
BIOL 350	Freshwater Ecosystems	
or EVPP 350	Freshwater Ecosystems	
BIOL 377	Applied Ecology	
or EVPP 377	Applied Ecology	
BIOL 382	Introduction to Virology	
BIOL 385	Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering	
BIOL 404	Medical Microbiology	
BIOL 408	Mushrooms, Molds and Society	
or EVPP 408	Mushrooms, Molds and Society	
BIOL 412	Phage Genomics	

BIOL 413	Histotechniques
BIOL 417	Selected Topics in Molecular and Cellular Biology
BIOL 420	Vaccines
BIOL 421	Genetics of Human Diseases
BIOL 423	Biology of Obesity and Weight Loss
BIOL 425	Human Physiology
BIOL 426	Mechanisms of Aging
BIOL 427	Conservation Medicine
or EVPP 427	Conservation Medicine
BIOL 429	Biological Foundations of Pharmacology
BIOL 432	Clinical Applications in Human Physiology
BIOL 435	Selected Topics in Biology
BIOL 443	Tropical Ecology
BIOL 449	Marine Ecology
BIOL 450	Marine Conservation
BIOL 452	Immunology
BIOL 454	Marine Mammal Biology and Conservation
BIOL 457	Reproductive Strategies
BIOL 460	Infectious Diseases Wildlife
or EVPP 460	Infectious Diseases of Wildlife
BIOL 472	Introductory Animal Behavior
BIOL 482	Introduction to Molecular Genetics
BIOL 483	General Biochemistry
EVPP 419	Marine Mammal Biology and Conservation
EVPP 421	Marine Conservation
EVPP 449	Marine Ecology
EVPP 451	Fungi and Ecosystems
CONS 472	Introduction to Animal Behavior

CONS 480	Primate Behavior, Ecology and Conservation
Upper-level Laboratory Courses [1,2]	
BIOL 303	Animal Biology
& BIOL 306	and Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory
BIOL 304	Plant Biology
BIOL 305	Biology of Microorganisms
& BIOL 306	and Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory
BIOL 322	Developmental Biology
& BIOL 323	and Environmental Effects on Embryonic Development
BIOL 377	Applied Ecology
& BIOL 378	and Applied Ecology Laboratory
BIOL 385	Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering
& BIOL 486	and Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Laboratory
BIOL 401	Phage Discovery
BIOL 405	Microbial Genetics
BIOL 407	Microbial Diversity
BIOL 430	Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I [2]
BIOL 431	Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II [2]
BIOL 437	Ornithology
or EVPP 437	Ornithology
BIOL 438	Mammalogy
or EVPP 438	Mammalogy
BIOL 439	Herpetology
or EVPP 439	Herpetology
BIOL 440	Field Biology
or CONS 440	Ecology Field Skills
BIOL 443	Tropical Ecology
& BIOL 444	and Tropical Ecology Laboratory
BIOL 452	Immunology
& BIOL 453	and Immunology Laboratory

BIOL 465	Histology
BIOL 472 & BIOL 473	Introductory Animal Behavior and Introductory Laboratory in Animal Behavior
BIOL 485	Cell Signaling Laboratory
EVPP 441	Protist Diversity and Ecology
CONS 332	Insect Biology
CONS 402	Applied Conservation
CONS 404	Biodiversity Monitoring
CONS 405	Landscape and Macrosystems Ecology
CONS 406	Small Population Management

[1] For the Biological Health concentration, the full 12 credits must be chosen in upper-level courses, and at least one course must include a laboratory.

[2] Students completing the Biological Illustration Concentration should select BIOL 430 Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOL 431 Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II to fulfill the biology elective requirements for the major.

Concentration in Biological Illustration (BIOI)

This optional concentration consists of a selection of courses designed to address the needs and interests of students who wish to study biology and simultaneously have the aptitude to draw, animate, or design art for textbooks, videos, papers, etc. This concentration has significant biology, chemistry, and physics components like all biology majors, and includes art classes that will prepare students for the opportunity to use their love of biology and art in one degree.

Select 15 credits from the following:	15
AVT 222	Drawing I(Mason Core)
AVT 323	Drawing II
AVT 324	Figure Drawing
AVT 327	Illustration
AVT 328	Mixed Media
AVT 382	2D Experimental Animation
AVT 383	3D Experimental Animation
Total Credits	15

Concentration in Biological Health (BIOH)

This concentration is specially designed for students who have a previous four-year degree and wish to change careers to pursue a profession in the health sciences. Students are encouraged to work closely with an advisor on their program of study as it relates to their transfer coursework.

Additional Chemistry		
CHEM 313 & CHEM 315	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry Lab I	5
CHEM 314 & CHEM 318	Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry Lab II	4-5
or BIOL 483	General Biochemistry	
Total Credits		9-10

Retroactive Requirements Updates: ~~Elective changes retroactive to Fall 2012.~~

Plan of Study:

Honors Information: Honors in the Major

Admissions

Minimum requirements for invitation:

- GPA in biology courses must be 3.33 or better
- GPA in supporting requirements (math and other science) must be 3.00 or better
- Grade of 'B' or better in BIOL 213 Cell Structure and Function and BIOL 215 Cell Structure and Function Laboratory.

Students should apply for admission to the Honors Program during their first or second year at the university. Contact the Department of Biology for information on applying.

Retention Requirements

Students in honors biology must maintain a biology GPA of 3.33 or better and a supporting GPA of 3.00 or better from the time they have accumulated 30 hours and thereafter. Students who fall below this standard will be given a one semester probationary period in which to bring their GPA back up to the minimum standard.

Requirements to Graduate with Biology Honors

Students are required to take 6 to 8 credits in honors courses in BIOL including three semesters of BIOL 494 Honors Seminar in Biology or two semesters of BIOL 494 Honors Seminar in Biology and one semester of BIOL 493 Honors

Research in Biology. BIOL 498 Research Seminar may count toward one of the semester requirements of BIOL 494 Honors Seminar in Biology. The GPA requirements are as follows:

- Minimum 3.33 GPA in honors biology courses
- Minimum 3.33 GPA in biology requirements
- Minimum 3.00 GPA in supporting requirements
- Minimum 3.00 GPA overall

Accelerated Description/Dual Degree Description:

INTO-Mason Requirements:

College Requirements & Policies:

Department / Academic Unit Requirements & Policies:

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.

Courses offered via distance (if applicable):

Indicate whether

What is the primary delivery format for the program? Face-to-Face Only

Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?

No

Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?

No

Related Departments

Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?

No

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Is this change a simple retitling of an existing program, with no other changes, to any existing program content, curriculum requirements, etc?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level (i.e., baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral)?

No

Percentage of total credits containing new course content. ("New course content" is defined by SACSCOC as content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level. Do not exclude gen ed credits in calculations for undergraduate programs.)

0%-24%

Does this change include the addition of a distance education or face-to-face method of delivery for this program?

No

Does this change include the addition of a course/credit-based competency-based education delivery option?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilities be needed?

No

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Additional library/learning resources needed?

No

Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your program? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at mmeiman2@gmu.edu.

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf program? No

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Additional Attachments

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer Comments

Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz) (12/01/25 9:24 am): Rollback: Will be voted on in Dec.

Additional Comments

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi_required.eschtml%

Key: 16