Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 02/06/25 11:08 am

Viewing: : Biology, BS/Biology, Accelerated MS

Last approved: 05/05/22 11:47 am

Last edit: 02/16/26 1:52 pm

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

Catalog Pages Using this Program

Biology, BS

Biology, MS

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

No

Effective Catalog: 2025-2026

Program Level: Undergraduate & Graduate (BAMs)

Program Type: Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's

Title:

Biology, BS/Biology, Accelerated MS

Registrar's Office Use Only – Program Start Term

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status

Concentration(s):

College/School: College of Science

Department / Academic Unit: School of Systems Biology

Jointly Owned Program? Yes

Is there an embedded degree

In Workflow

1. **Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review**
2. **SSB CC**
3. **SSB Program Chair**
4. BIOL Program Chair
5. SC Curriculum Committee
6. SC Assistant Dean
7. Assoc Provost-Graduate
8. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
9. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 02/07/25 9:46 am Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra): Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. 03/10/25 3:43 pm Ramin Hakami (rhakami): Approved for SSB CC

History

1. Oct 30, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Feb 16, 2018 by rzachari

as part of a program?

Participating Colleges

	College
1	College of Science

Participating Departments

	Department
1	Biology

3. Mar 7, 2019 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
4. Mar 21, 2019 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
5. Mar 2, 2021 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
6. May 5, 2022 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)

Justification

What: Moving to the most recently available BAM template and reflecting newly decoupled BIOL courses.

Why: For clarity and consistency.

Catalog Published Information

Accelerated Description/Dual Degree Description:

Biology, BS/Biology, Accelerated MS

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the combined bachelor's and accelerated master's degree pathway program (accelerated master's or BAM) and obtain a Biology, BS and a Biology, MS through the Biology, BS/Biology, Accelerated MS in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 138 credits.
See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees for policies related to this program.
Students in an accelerated master's degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

~~This bachelor's/accelerated master's degree program allows academically strong undergraduates with a commitment to advance their education to obtain both the Biology, BS and the Biology, MS degrees within an accelerated timeframe. Upon completion of this 138 credit accelerated program, students will be exceptionally well prepared for entry into their careers or into a doctoral program in the field or in a related discipline.~~
~~Students are eligible to apply for this accelerated program once they have earned at least 60 undergraduate credits and can enroll in up to 18 credits of graduate coursework after successfully completing 75 undergraduate credits.~~
~~This flexibility makes it possible for students to complete a bachelor's and a master's in five years.~~

~~For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies. For more information on undergraduates enrolling in graduate courses, see AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.~~

~~Application Requirements~~

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Graduate Admissions Admission Policies and accelerated master's degree policies. ~~section of this catalog.~~ Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits with an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.10, and:

1. Obtaining a graduate faculty advisor prior to beginning graduate coursework,
2. Providing two letters of recommendation, including one from a prospective thesis or project advisor, and
3. Completing the courses listed in the *Required Undergraduate Courses* table and achieving the stated GPAs.

Required Undergraduate Courses

~~Important application information and processes for this accelerated master's program can be found here.~~
~~Students should seek out the graduate program's advisor who will aid in choosing the appropriate graduate courses and help prepare the student for graduate studies.~~
~~Three letters of recommendation, including one from a prospective thesis or project advisor, are required.~~
~~GRE scores are not required for students in this accelerated program.~~
~~Successful applicants will have an overall undergraduate GPA of at least 3.10. Additionally, they will have completed the following courses with a GPA of 3.00 or higher[2].~~

Courses must be completed with a minimum grade of 3.00 or higher. [1]

BIOL 213 & BIOL 215	Cell Structure and Function and Cell Structure and Function Laboratory	4
BIOL 214	Biostatistics for Biology Majors	4
BIOL 300	BioDiversity	4
or BIOL 311	General Genetics	
CHEM 313 & CHEM 315	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry Lab I [1]	5

1 Grades of 2.50 in CHEM 313 and CHEM 315 are acceptable for admission into this accelerated pathway.

~~2 Grades of 2.50 in CHEM 313 and CHEM 315 are acceptable for admission into this accelerated pathway.~~

Students who are accepted into the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate-level courses after the successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits.

Students should seek out the graduate program's advisor who will aid in preparing the plan of study and the student for success in graduate studies.

Accelerated Master's Admission ~~Option~~ Requirements

Undergraduate students already admitted to the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the intended master's program if they have met the following criteria that
will be verified:

- Submission of BAM Transition Form by the deadline stated on the form.
- Sufficient minimum 3.10 cumulative GPA for conferred undergraduate degree (which does not include any earned reserve graduate credits).
- Completion of approved advanced standing courses and any reserve graduate courses that have met the minimum grade requirement (please refer to AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees).
- Successful completion of required minimum of 120 credits needed for undergraduate degree conferral (after exclusion of any satisfactory reserve graduate credits earned).
- Successfully meeting George Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and timely submission of the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following:

Advanced Standing Courses

Students must complete at least 3 credits from the following list of graduate-level courses, while in undergraduate status, up to a maximum of 12:

~~After the completion of 75 undergraduate credits, students may complete 3 to 12 credits of graduate coursework that can apply to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.~~

~~In addition to applying to graduate from the undergraduate program, students in the accelerated program must submit a bachelor's/accelerated master's transition form (available from the Office of the University Registrar) to the College of Science's Office of Academic and Student Affairs by the last day to add classes of their final undergraduate semester. Students should enroll for courses in the master's program in the fall or spring semester immediately following conferral of the bachelor's degree, but should contact an advisor if they would like to defer up to one semester.~~

~~Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 or higher in all graduate coursework and should consult with their faculty advisor to coordinate their academic goals.~~

~~Reserve Graduate Credit~~

~~Accelerated master's students may also take up to 6 graduate credits as reserve graduate credits. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree, but will reduce the master's degree by up to 6 credits. With 12 graduate credits counted toward the undergraduate and graduate degrees plus the maximum 6 reserve graduate credits, the credits necessary for the graduate degree can be reduced by up to 18.~~

~~Graduate Course Suggestions~~

~~The following list of suggested courses is provided for general reference. To ensure an efficient route to graduation and post-graduation readiness, students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor before registering for graduate-level courses.~~

BIOL 508	Selected Topics in Animal Biology (When the topic is "Research and Development in a Biotechnological Company")	1-4
BIOL 682	Advanced Eukaryotic Cell Biology	3
BIOL 689	Interdisciplinary Tools in the Biosciences	3
BIOL 690	Introduction to Graduate Studies in Biology	1-2
BIOL 695	Seminar in Molecular, Microbial, and Cellular Biology	1

Reserve Graduate Credits

While in undergraduate student status, students may complete up to 6 credits of graduate-level coursework that will only count toward the graduate degree program. Reserve credits must be selected from the curated list of courses above.

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree and AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.

Program Outcomes

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

Additional Attachments

Reviewer Comments

Additional Comments

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

%wi_required.eschtml%

Key: 90