

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 02/05/26 12:44 pm

Viewing: : **Department of Biology**

Last approved: 08/29/24 10:40 am

Last edit: 02/05/26 12:44 pm

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

Catalog Pages
Using this Program
Department of Biology

No Longer
Anticipated closure
Rationale for

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

No

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027
Program Level: College/Department
Program Type: Department

Title:
Department of Biology

1. What is the purpose of this program?
2. What evidence is there that this program is needed?
3. Have you confirmed the need for this program with the appropriate stakeholders?
4. How does this program align with the college's strategic plan?
5. Is this badge co-sponsored by another department or organization?
6. What is the expected outcome of this program?

7. How will the success of this program be measured?
8. What resources are needed to implement this program?
9. How will the program be evaluated and revised as needed?
10. What is the timeline for implementation and evaluation?

In Workflow

- 1. Registrar-Programs:College-Dept Workflow
- 2. BIOL Program Chair
- 3. SC Curriculum Committee
- 4. SC Assistant Dean
- 5. Assoc Provost-Graduate
- 6. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
- 7. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

- 1. 02/06/26 12:10 pm
Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra): Approved for Registrar-Programs:College-Dept Workflow
- 2. 02/16/26 1:24 pm
Geraldine Grant (ggrant1): Approved for BIOL Program Chair

History

- 1. Oct 23, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim
- 2. Feb 16, 2018 by rzachari
- 3. Feb 1, 2019 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)

Is this a retitling of
Existing Program

Registrar/OAPI Use Pending Approval
Only – SCHEV
Status

Re:

Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SCHEV
Letter

Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SACSCOC
Status

Registrar/IRR Use

College/School: College of Science

Department /
Academic Unit: Biology

Is there an
embedded degree
as part of a
program?

Justification

What: Updating the WI course.
Why: It has changed since the last catalog publication.

4. Mar 10, 2021 by
Tori Blocker
(vblocke)
5. Aug 29, 2024 by
Tory Sarro (vsarro)

Catalog Published Information

Total Credits
Registrar's Office Use Only: 0
Registrar/IRR Use
Admission
Requirements:

Program-Specific
Policies:

Degree
Requirements:

BS
Plan of Study:

Honors
Information:

Accelerated
Description/Dual
Degree
Description:

INTO-Mason
Requirements:

College
Requirements &
Policies:

Department /
Academic Unit
Requirements &
Policies:

Requirements

Advising

All biology majors are strongly encouraged to see an academic advisor regularly to help in planning their schedule so that they can graduate on time. Biology majors should see an advisor for permission to register prior to their first semester, again after completing 60 credits, and lastly after completing 90 credits.

Medical Laboratory Science, BS majors must see the director of the medical laboratory science program to obtain permission to register each semester.

Students returning from suspension are required to meet with the director of undergraduate studies or designee prior to being allowed to register.

For more information on advising or to set up an appointment, visit the [Department of Biology's website](#).

Residency Requirement for Transfer Students

Students majoring in biology are required to complete 16 credits in the major at the 300 and 400 levels at Mason in addition to meeting the university residency requirement of at least 30 credits at Mason.

Policies

Policy on Using Biology Program Laboratories

Only authorized experiments and exercises may be carried out in any research or teaching laboratory and must be done under the supervision of a university faculty or staff member. No unauthorized work is allowed in any laboratory.

Policy on Using Organisms in Classes

Direct observations of actual organisms are considered an essential part of learning biology at all levels. Direct observations of organisms may involve the use of living or preserved specimens, dissections of organisms or parts of organisms, and microscopic examination of organisms or parts of organisms. All use of live animals conforms to National Institutes of Health guidelines for the use and care of laboratory animals. Activities specified above may be a required part of a course and thus serve as a basis for grading in the course. Any questions about the administration of this policy should be directed to the course coordinator or instructor.

Writing-Intensive Requirement

Mason requires all bachelor's students to complete at least one course designated as "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300-level or above. Students majoring in biology fulfill this requirement by successfully completing BIOL 400 News Views: Selected Topics(Mason Core) ~~BIOL 308 Foundations of Ecology and Evolution(Mason Core)~~. Medical laboratory science majors fulfill the requirement by completing MLAB 300 Science Writing(Mason Core).

Minor in Biology

Information about this minor can be found in the Biology Minor's catalog entry.

Premedical, Predental, Prepharmacy, and Preveterinary Students

Web: prehealth.gmu.edu

Many students planning to enter medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, optometry, or other health professional schools choose to pursue a major in biology. These students should consult the health professions advising web site on required coursework and overall preparation.

Teacher Licensure

Students who wish to become teachers should pursue either the Biology, BA or the Biology, BS in addition to obtaining teaching certificates through the College of Education and Human Development. For more information, visit the Graduate School of Education's website.

Biology for Non-majors

Students who are not majoring in science or mathematics and wish to fulfill their natural science requirement may enroll in the biology classes listed in the Mason Core Natural Science section. Chemistry, physics, and mathematics majors should consult with their faculty advisor to determine which biology courses to take.

Program Outcomes

Courses offered via
Indicate whether

What is the
primary delivery
format for the
program?

Additional SCHEV & SA

is the content of the new
Which existing program
Is this new program
Which existing program
Is this new program
Which existing program
Is this a re-naming of a
Data of Program Change
What are the methods of
Does this program include a
Is this change a simple retitlin
of an existing program, with
no other changes, to any
existing program content,
curriculum requirements, etc?

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 De

Is this a Green Leaf program?

Does this program cover materi

Additional Attachments

Executive Summary

Reviewer Comments

Additional Comments

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

%wi_required.eshtml%

Attachments