Information for Life Science Students pursuing a Biology program

What Courses to Take: Core, Required, Pre-/Co-Requisite Courses

If you are planning on completing one of our Biology Major or Specialist programs you must take the following 3.0 credits:

- **BIO152H5F** (0.5 credit, offered in the Fall)
- **BIO153H5S** (0.5 credit, offered in the Winter)
- **CHM110H5F** (0.5 credit, offered in the Fall)
- **CHM120H5S** (0.5 credit, offered in the Winter)
- **MAT134Y5Y** (1.0 credit, offered over the entire year)

Biology minor students only need to complete BIO152H5F and BIO153H5S.

The courses above have Lecture, Practical and Tutorial sections, you must enroll in one session of each. For example in BIO152H5 you will need to select a LEC (lecture), TUT (tutorial) and a PRA (practical/lab) section. You must attend the section that you select, so make sure you do not enroll in conflicting classes. Now you are wondering, “that is only 3.0 credits and you told me I need to take 4.0 or 5.0 per year? What do I do now?” You should fill up your other 1.0 to 2.0 credits with courses to use towards your other program, or to satisfy your humanities and/or social science degree requirements.

Also, while Biology students need to take the five courses above, the only courses that are “offered” by Biology are BIO152 and BIO153. If you have questions about CHM110 or CHM120 you should contact the Chemical and Physical Sciences Department and if you have questions about MAT134Y you should contact the Math and Computational Sciences Department.

Choosing Programs: Program Entry Requirements

Enrollment criteria are listed in the Academic Calendar in the blue box under the program name. You cannot request Biology programs if you have completed less than 4.0 credits, so please consider this when deciding how many courses to take. Each program has different enrollment criteria. Biology programs and their enrollment criteria and program requirements can be found in the Academic Calendar. Please make sure that you select the correct required courses for your programs and follow the requirements for the program in the year you were accepted into the program. Example: If you were accepted into a Biology program in 2019, you should follow the required courses for your program in the 2019-2020 calendar, not quanter semesters.

What other programs? In order to complete an HBSc degree students must complete the correct combination of programs. Unless you are planning to complete a Biology Specialist program, you will need to select at least one other program to complement your Biology program. A full list of Biology programs can be found here. You can find a list of UTM programs organized by discipline here, I also recommend that you review the New Student Website and the Registration Guide for New Students.

Program Advising: Department Contact Information

Help is available, in the Biology Department! If you would like to speak to an advisor please feel free to email us with your questions or to arrange an appointment.

Biology Department Academic Advisor:
Diane Matias (d.matias@utoronto.ca)
- Program concerns, graduation questions, general policies and procedures. Diane is the primary contact for transfer students.

Biology Department Undergraduate Assistant:
Stephanie do Rego (stephanie.dorego@utoronto.ca)
- Contact for questions related to course enrollment, pre-requisites and general program questions in your first or second year

Getting Prepared: Head Start

Date: Tuesday September 4
Time: 11am – 1pm

Biology Skills for Success! Join the faculty, TAs and senior students as you experience a typical first-year mock lecture that will provide you with an opportunity to review skills required for success. You will tour a first-year biology lab and speak with senior students and faculty to ask questions and share experiences.

All program sessions will occur during this period. Sign up for the Biology specific session when it becomes available: http://utm.utoronto.ca/asc/newutm

Troubleshooting

What should I do if the course I want is full?
If a course is full, put yourself on the wait list. Make sure you select other courses as a Plan B or Plan C, while you wait for movement in wait lists (as students add and drop courses or as class sizes potentially get adjusted). Be a little flexible in building an alternate timetable. Think about other courses that you can take this year.

I have a course conflict, what should I do?
It is the responsibility of the student to resolve a conflict by finding another section or course option. If you are finding it difficult to build a conflict-free timetable, come speak with an Academic Advisor at the Office of the Registrar.

How many courses should I take in my first year?
3.0 credits or more categorizes you as a full time student. Note that you need to complete at least 4.0 credits to be considered for entry into Program(s) of Study. Also to note, you will need to take 5.0 credits per year if you wish to complete your degree in four years. Often students will take 4.0 credits in the fall and winter, and 1.0 credits in the summer. Although summer course offerings will vary, students often use this opportunity to complete electives and/or distribution requirements.

Why can’t I add a course listed on the timetable?
You may not be able to add a course due to enrolment controls. Please check the timetable (https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/timetable/) for more details.

What if my tutorial or practical is closed? Are they required?
Tutorials and practicals are required. If you are unable to get into a corresponding tutorial or practical, please speak with the Department of Biology (contacts above).

How do I select my Program of Study (POS)?
Students request their programs at the end of their first year, as all UofT students are admitted to a general first year program (such as Life Sciences or Humanities). You need to complete a minimum of 4.0 credits as well as any other program enrollment criteria (such as CGPA) before you can be considered for entry into a program. Please refer to the Program Selection Guide for more information.