



Biology Major (BA)

Total Major hours: 50
Suggested hours per semester: 16-18

Major Academic Plan (MAP) for Catalog Year 2026-2027

The College Catalog is the final authority on course requirements for graduation. This MAP is only a tool for course planning purposes. Course sequencing may vary from this MAP; students are strongly encouraged to seek guidance from their faculty advisor regarding their course schedule and possible studies off campus.

<p>Fall Semester 1</p> <p>BIOL 241 Organization of Life^{F,1} CHEM 231 General Chemistry^{F,2}</p> <p><i>CORE 101: First Year Seminar</i> <i>CORE 131: Holistic Human Flourishing (1)</i></p> <p><i>Core Competency Course(s)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>COMM 101: Oral Comm (2)</i> ▪ <i>ENGW 103: First-Year Writing</i> ▪ <i>Language</i> 	<p>Spring Semester 1</p> <p>Major Elective(s)³</p> <p><i>Core Competency Course(s)</i> <i>BITH 211/ARCH 211: Old Testament</i></p>	<p>Summer 1</p> <p>Consider study abroad (e.g. Wheaton-In programs), internship, or research options</p>
<p>Fall Semester 2</p> <p>BHS 252 Intro to Biological & Health Science Research^{*5,7}</p> <p><i>Core Competency Course(s)</i> <i>BITH 213/ARCH 213: New Testament</i></p>	<p>Spring Semester 2</p> <p>Major Elective(s)³ BIOL cluster 1, 2, or 3⁵</p> <p><i>Thematic Core Course(s)</i> <i>BITH 315: Christian Thought*</i></p>	<p>Summer 2</p> <p>Consider study abroad (e.g. Wheaton-In programs), internship, or research options</p>
<p>Fall Semester 3</p> <p>BIOL cluster 1, 2, 3⁵ BIOL 356 Genetics^{*F}</p> <p><i>Thematic Core Course(s)</i></p>	<p>Spring Semester 3</p> <p>Major Elective(s)³ BIOL cluster 1, 2, or 3⁴</p> <p><i>Advanced Integrative Seminar*</i> <i>Thematic Core Course(s)</i></p>	<p>Summer 3</p> <p>Consider study abroad (e.g. Wheaton-In programs), internship, or research options</p>
<p>Fall Semester 4</p> <p>Major Elective(s)³</p> <p><i>Thematic Core Course(s)</i></p>	<p>Spring Semester 4</p> <p>BHS 494 Integrated Biological & Health Scientist (2)^{*5,6,7} Major Elective(s)³</p> <p><i>Thematic Core Course(s)</i></p>	<p>Summer 4</p>

Notes or Special Guidance:

*Course has a prerequisite

^F Fall only course

^S Spring only course

[#] Offered every other year

¹ Meets a CATC Thematic Core tag (SP)a

²Students may decide, with their advisor's guidance, to postpone beginning the Chemistry requirement until their sophomore year.

³Major Electives: 20 credits. Students may take any additional 300- or 400-level Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB), Biology (BIOL), Conservation and Ecological Health (CEH), Health Science (HS), or Neuroscience (NEUR) courses to fulfill their elective credit hours. Only 4 credits of 495-499 courses may be counted towards Major Elective credits.

⁴Take at least one course from each of the three biology clusters for the Biology Major Core Courses(see College Catalog).

⁵Course may be taken in either Fall or Spring.

⁶Students can take BHS 494, BMB 494 or NEUR 494 to complete the capstone requirement.

⁷Highly recommended to take in the second year or later.

Please review general information about MAPs to see how your path and suggested hours per semester may differ: <https://www.wheaton.edu/academics/services/academic-advising-office/major-academic-plans-maps/>