BSc General Biological Sciences

1. CHECK YOUR “ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS” REPORT (AAR) IN BEARTRACKS

This is located in your “Manage Classes” icon in BearTracks, with the Academic Requirements Report link on the left hand side

- This report is a digital version of your degree requirements so you can track your progress against the requirements of your degree in real time
- Provides critical alerts for you to be aware of before you take the courses for credit
- Checks to make sure you are meeting all the requirements of your degree and easily shows you what elements of your degree that you are still missing

2. ENSURE YOU’VE COMPLETED YOUR JUNIOR CORE REQUIREMENTS:

- View available courses on our BSc General Degree Requirements Planning Sheet
  - *6 English
  - *6 Mathematical Sciences
  - *6 Physical Sciences
  - *6 Laboratory Sciences

3. LOOKING TO YOUR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES MAJOR

- You need a minimum of *36 credits to complete this major
- BIOL 107 and BIOL 108 should be taken in the first year (which are part of your *6 in Laboratory Sciences for the Junior Core requirements)
- *3 of BIOL 207 or BIOL 208 should be taken in the first term of your second year to help open up opportunities for more senior (200-level and higher) level courses
- You need *9 in lab courses (excludes BIOL 107, BIOL 108, and *3 of BIOL 207 or BIOL 208)
  - If you take BOTH BIOL 207 and BIOL 208, then *3 can be used towards the lab component meaning you only have to do another *6 credits
- Look at the Subject Area Requirements sheet for various courses to take
  - Subject Areas are:
    - Ecology, Evolution and Diversity = EED,
    - Genetics and Molecular (or Micro) Biology = GMB, and
    - Physiology, Cell and Developmental Biology = PCDB
  - You need a minimum of *3 credits per subject area
  - Courses in BOLD also have a laboratory component
You can select a bolded course from each subject area to maximize your courses for the Subject Area Requirements and the Lab Component element of your major (ex: ZOOL 224 from EED, MICRB 265 from GMB, and GENET 375 from PCDB)

- If not, then you may have to take more Biological Sciences courses to fulfill your degree requirements
- Only courses listed on the sheet can be used towards the Subject Area Requirements or the Lab Component requirement of your major

- You need at least *3 credits* at the 400-level
- You need at least *9 credits* at the 300-level or higher
  - This is in addition to the required *3 at the 400-level requirement above
- 300 and 400-level courses if taken to fulfill the Lab Component or Subject Area Requirement aspects of your degree also work towards your *3 or *9 credit requirements for 400-level and/or 300-level or higher courses
- Types of Biological Sciences courses: there are 17 different subjects that encompass the Biological Sciences major:
  - Biochemistry (BIOCH), Medical Microbiology and Immunology (MMI - except MMI 100 and 133), Bioinformatics (BIOIN), Microbiology (MICRB), Biology (BIOL), Neuroscience (NEURO), Botany (BOT), NU FS 363 only, Cell Biology (CELL), Paleontology (PALEO), Entomology (ENT), Physiology (PHYSL), Genetics (GENET), Pharmacology (PMCOL), Immunology and Infection (IMIN), Zoology (ZOOL), Marine Science (MA SC)
  - 1 May not be used to fulfill PCDB subject category
- Where courses overlap and are applicable to both a major or minor the credits can't be split. For example, you can't use PALEO classes in both your Biological Sciences major and your Earth and Atmospheric Sciences minor. All PALEO courses taken will be applied to either the major or minor but not split between both.

4. LOOK TO YOUR MINOR OR DOUBLE MAJOR
- Another aspect of your degree is the mandatory second area of study
- You can pick a minor from Faculty of Science, Arts, Agriculture Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES), or Business or pick a double major from the Faculty of Science
  - Business minors require a new application and a set of prerequisite courses to be completed before being eligible
  - You can't have the same minor or double major as your initial major
- If you haven't declared your minor or double major you can do so on the SciForms web portal
All possible options for a minor or double major can be viewed on our BSc General Degree Requirements Planning Sheet

5. OPTIONS/ELECTIVES IN MY DEGREE

- Exact credit minimums and maximums are listed in the BSc General Degree Requirement PDF
- Arts options (any courses offered by the Faculty of Arts)
- Science options (any courses offered by the Faculty of Science)
- Outside options (any courses not offered by the Faculty of Arts or Science)

6. TALK TO YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR

If you still have questions or concerns after reviewing all of this material you should contact your Academic Advisor.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Create a balanced timetable: Do not register for more than two or three lab based courses per term as you will have lab assignments and exams in addition to regular course work.

Only register in courses for which you have the prerequisite: Students without the appropriate prerequisites will be removed from the course or credit will be withheld. Make sure to read the course description before you register in a course on Bear Tracks as Bear Tracks may not prevent you from registering in a course you don’t have the prerequisite for.

The class you want is full: If a class is full simply place the class on your watch list (found on BearTracks). You can also speak with the teaching department in charge of that class to see if anything else can be done or to see if a new section could be available.

Familiarize yourself with all courses. You can use the Course Listings in the U of A Calendar to search courses by prefix so that you can get an overview of course content, and prerequisites for courses offered at the U of A. Keep in mind that you will still need to check Bear Tracks to ensure the course is being offered.

Try something new. Your degree requirements are not just about fulfilling your major and minor. Why not try a course in an area you have always been interested in? Or, perhaps build some hands on experience into your degree by taking a research course. You can try entering a hobby or interest into the "Keyword or Phrase" search box in the Course Filter under Course Listings. For example, "sustainability". Leave all other search boxes as is. This will list all of the UofA courses which involve the topic of sustainability. screenshot?

Watch out for 100-level courses. All Faculty of Science degrees allow for a maximum of *42 at the 100-level, this includes junior core requirements. Know how many you have before registering in options courses. If you have reached the *42 maximum 100-level option courses may not count towards your degree.