



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Michael K. Young
President

January 29, 2014

Dean Robert C. Stacey
College of Arts and Sciences
Box 353765

Dear Bob:

Based on the recommendation of its Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards has recommended approval of the revised admission and continuation policy requirements for both the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. A copy of the changes is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Biology is authorized to specify these requirements beginning summer quarter 2014.

The new requirements should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Young".

Michael K. Young
President

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Eileen O'Connor (with enclosure)
Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)
Ms. Virjean Edwards (with enclosure)



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
**CREATING AND CHANGING UNDERGRADUATE
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

SEP 27 2013

OFFICE USE ONLY

Control #:

BIOL-20130827

After college/school/campus review, send a signed original and 1 copy to the Curriculum Office/FCAS, Box 355850.
For information about when and how to use this form: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwor/1503instructions.pdf>

College/Campus **Seattle**

Department/Unit **Biology**

Date **8/27/13**

New Programs

- ☐ Leading to a Bachelor of _____ in _____ degree.
- ☐ Leading to a Bachelor of _____ degree with a major in _____.
- ☐ Leading to a _____ Option within the existing major in _____.
- ☐ Leading to a minor in _____.

Changes to Existing Programs

- ☒ New Admission Requirements for the Major in Biology within the Bachelor of BA/BS
- ☐ Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____.
- ☐ Revised Program Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____.
- ☐ Revised Requirements for the Option in _____ within the major in _____.
- ☐ Revised Requirements for the Minor in _____.

Other Changes

- ☐ Change name of program from _____ to _____.
- ☐ Change delivery method or location of program.
- ☒ New or Revised Continuation Policy for BIOL
- ☐ New Honors Requirements for _____.
- ☐ Eliminate program in _____.

Proposed Effective Date: Quarter: ☒ Autumn ☐ Winter ☐ Spring ☒ Summer Year: **20 14**

Contact Person: **Joe Ammirati, PhD.**

Phone: **543-1986** Email: **cort@uw.edu**

Box: **355320**

EXPLANATION OF AND RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

For new program, please include any relevant supporting documentation such as student learning outcomes, projected enrollments, letters of support and departmental handouts. (Use additional pages if necessary).

See Attached

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED

List all departments/units/ or co-accredited programs affected by your new program or changes to your existing program and acquire the signature of the chair/director of each department/unit listed. Attach additional page(s) if necessary. *See online instructions.

Department/Unit:	Chair/Program Director:	Date:
Department/Unit:	Chair/Program Director:	Date:

CATALOG COPY

Catalog Copy as currently written. Include only sections/paragraphs that would be changed if your request is approved. Please cross out or otherwise highlight any deletions.

See Attached

PROPOSED CATALOG COPY

Reflecting requested changes (Include exact wording as you wish it to be shown in the printed catalog. Please underline or otherwise highlight any additions. If needed, attach a separate, expanded version of the changes that might appear in department publications).
Please note: all copy will be edited to reflect uniform style in the General Catalog.

See Attached

APPROVALS

Chair/Program Director

Date:

8/27/2013

College/School/Campus Curriculum Committee:

Date:

9/23/13

Dean/Vice Chancellor:

Date:

9/23/13

Faculty Council on Academic Standards/ General Faculty Organization/Faculty Assembly Chair:

Date:

11/8/13

POST TRI-CAMPUS APPROVAL (when needed)

Faculty Council on Academic Standards/ General Faculty Organization/Faculty Assembly Chair:

Date:

6/20/2014

Revised

The current enrollment of 1700 students in the BA/BS degree options in Biology is difficult to sustain based on university resources and the low level of student academic readiness to engage in a Natural Science Degree. The goals of our Admission and Continuation Policies are to identify and support students genuinely interested and academically prepared to complete a major in Biology. The requested change of Admissions Requirements and addition of a Continuation Policy are designed to bring the number of undergraduate Biology majors to a more sustainable number around 1600 and simultaneously assist students coming in to be more academically fit, by encouraging better planning and preparation. The parameters created by new admissions criteria define best preparation for the major. The continuation policy defines successful progress towards completing the major in a time frame consistent with UW Satisfactory Progress Policy. Creating preparedness standards and monitoring high and low scholarship will assist faculty and academic services in curriculum and program development that results in students completing degrees with better major fit and greater efficiency. Biology Academic Services have been restructured to provide more outreach and exploration opportunities to freshmen and sophomore students interested in pre-science curricula. These efforts will be directly linked to a program of services that will engage students in planning their academic programs and career goals at an earlier stage.

Time line for implementation of full Competitive Major: **Summer 2014**

Continuation Policy in effect.

Current students notified of the policy. First check run at the start of Summer Quarter 2014 based on Spring 2014 grades.

Completion of Biology 180, 200, 220 with a minimum 2.0 in each course required to declare a major in Biology.

Full Competitive Major and Admissions process in effect.

Applications to the major will be done quarterly (AUT, WIN, SPR, SUM).

Basic Qualifications to apply for Admission:

- Be a matriculated UW-Seattle Campus Student, in good academic standing
- Completion of Biology 180, 200, 220 with a minimum 2.0 in each course
- 2.5 GPA for Supporting Coursework (Biology beyond 180, 200, and 220, Chemistry, Math, and Physics) completed at time of application. (All sequences in Supporting Course work do not have to be complete at the time of application)
- Personal Statement/Short answer admissions questions

old

The current enrollment of 1700 students in the BA/BS degree options in Biology is not a sustainable number based on university resources and the low level of student academic readiness to engage in a Natural Science Degree. The goals of our Admission and Continuation Policies are to identify and support students genuinely interested and academically prepared to complete a major in Biology. The requested change of Admissions Requirements and addition of a Continuation Policy are designed to bring the number of undergraduate Biology majors to a more sustainable number around 1200 and simultaneously assist students coming in to be more academically fit, by encouraging better planning and preparation. The parameters created by new admissions criteria define best preparation for the major. The continuation policy defines successful progress towards completing the major in a time frame consistent with UW Satisfactory Progress Policy. Creating preparedness standards and monitoring high and low scholarship will assist faculty and academic services in curriculum and program development that results in students completing degrees with better major fit and greater efficiency. Biology Academic Services have been restructured to provide more outreach and exploration opportunities to freshmen and sophomore students interested in pre-science curricula. These efforts will be directly linked to a program of services that will engage students in planning their academic programs and career goals at an earlier stage.

Time line for implementation of full Competitive Major:

Eff. Sum/2014

~~Winter 2014~~

Continuation Policy in effect.

Current students notified of the policy. First check run at the start of Spring Quarter 2014 based on Winter 2014 grades.

~~Spring-Summer 2014~~

Completion of Biology 180, 200, 220 with a minimum 2.0 in each course required to declare a major in Biology.

~~Autumn 2014~~

Full Competitive Major and Admissions process in effect.

Applications to the major will be done quarterly (AUT, WIN, SPR, SUM).

Basic Qualifications to apply for Admission:

- Be a matriculated UW-Seattle Campus Student, in good academic standing
- Completion of Biology 180, 200, 220 with a minimum 2.0 in each course
- 2.5 GPA for Supporting Coursework (Biology beyond 180, 200, and 220, Chemistry, Math, and Physics) completed at time of application. (All sequences in Supporting Course work do not have to be complete at the time of application)
- Personal Statement/Short answer admissions questions

Current:

Department Admission Requirements

~~BIOL 180 with a minimum grade of 2.5; or BIOL 180, BIOL 200, BIOL 220 (or full transfer equivalent) with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 for the three courses. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 is required for all courses which would apply toward major requirements (this includes all applicable chemistry, physics, mathematics, quantitative science, and introductory biological science courses).~~

Proposed:

Application to the BA and BS degree programs in Biology is competitive. Applications are accepted quarterly and are due the second Friday of autumn, winter, spring, and summer quarters by 11:59pm. Applications received by the system after the quarterly cut off will be considered for the subsequent quarter.

Minimum requirements for admission consideration:

1. Be a matriculated student at the UW Seattle campus in good academic standing.
2. Minimum grade of 2.0 in each of BIOL 180, BIOL 200, and BIOL 220.
3. Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA for any supporting chemistry, physics, mathematics, biology, or other courses that may apply to the Biology major requirements completed at time of application.
4. Personal Statement: May include a description of interest in biology, career goals, undergraduate research interests, degree interest (BA or BS), and any other information applicant believes is useful in evaluating the application.

Meeting these minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the Biology major. Other factors in admission include overall academic and difficulty of other courses completed; time to degree set by UW Satisfactory Progress Policy including frequency of incompletes or withdrawal grades and number of repeated courses; relevant work and life experience; and record of honors

Continuation Policy

Certain levels of academic performance are required to continue in good standing in the Biology Department. The criteria and procedures below will be used in administering the Biology Continuation Policy. These criteria and procedures use credit and quarter totals that are defined by the University of Washington. Students should note the UW monitors and defines Academic Probation with regards to a student's overall GPA and those policies are not defined here.

Time to Degree: UW defines time to degree for freshmen as a maximum of 210 credits or 12 quarters, transfer students are allowed 6 quarters and are held to the same credit total which includes their transfer credits. Summer quarters do not count towards a student's quarter allotment but the credits earned do count toward the credit total. Bachelor Degrees granted by the Department of Biology are based on 180 credits.

The Department of Biology recognizes that exceptional circumstances may delay degree progress and will support students in resolving such situations. The Department of Biology may not approve the addition of majors or minors if the completion of these programs will take a declared Biology major beyond the credit or quarter totals allowed by the University or in cases where the student has already filed for graduation.

Registration holds are placed on student records at 165 credits. Only in certain circumstances will the Department of Biology support petitions to the College of Arts and Sciences for permission to remain enrolled beyond 210 credits or allowed number of regular quarterly enrollments. To remove the hold students will need to see a Department of Biology Adviser with an academic plan for review.

University and Departmental Academic Standing: All Biology undergraduates must remain in good academic standing each quarter in the major. Good academic standing is defined by the UW and Department of Biology as a 2.0 cumulative UW GPA and a 2.0 Major GPA. Repeated courses are both counted in the GPA (while credit is assigned only once).

Monitoring Departmental Academic Standing: The Biology Department will monitor the academic performance of all departmental undergraduates. This grade review will be conducted quarterly and Departmental Probation will be noted in the student's electronic advising file. Students will be notified of departmental academic probation by UWemail.

Departmental Probation:

Departmental Probation is based on a student's departmental GPA. Students with a Biology Major GPA lower than 2.0 will receive a notification of Departmental Probation by the second week of the quarter following the quarter in which the unsatisfactory GPA was earned. Students will be notified via email and a note will be placed in their electronic advising file (EARS). Students placed on departmental probation will be given 2 weeks from the date of the Official Probation Warning Email to make a required appointment with a Departmental Adviser to create an Advising Plan. Students should note that Biology Departmental Adviser Meetings are a requirement of this policy, a

walk-in advising appointment will not be considered sufficient. It is the responsibility of the student to make a Biology Departmental Advising Appointment. Students meeting both requirements (Creating an Advising Plan with a Departmental Adviser and bringing their GPA up to a 2.0 or higher at the end of the Advising Plan) will be removed from Departmental Probation with no further action. Students are allowed only one Departmental Probation. If a student's departmental GPA drops below a 2.0 in subsequent quarters following the completion of their Departmental Probation Advising Plan they will be dropped from the major.

Final Notice and Drop from Biology Major:

If a student fails to bring their Departmental GPA up to 2.0 or higher in the time approved in the advising plan they will be given final notice of their unsatisfactory progress

Drop from Biology Major: Students not meeting a 2.0 or higher major GPA at the end of their academic plan will be dropped from the Biology major and returned to PREMAJ or EPRMJ status in the College Arts and Sciences at the end of the quarter in which they received Final Notice.

Appeals: A student who is dropped under the continuation policy may file a written appeal with the Biology Advising Office. The appeal must be submitted within 15 working days after the denial or drop notice was dated. The appeal should be typed, state all the facts the student believes justify reconsideration and include supporting documentation. The Director of Academic Services and Faculty serving on the Biology Undergraduate Program Committee will review the facts and render a decision within 15 working days after the appeal is received.

Jennifer A. Payne

From: Eileen O'Connor <eoc@u.washington.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 1:16 PM
To: Jennifer A. Payne
Subject: Re: Biology Admissions requirements questions.

Hi Jennifer - sorry to be so slow, but once we missed the Oct deadline, I figured what the hey...

Anyway, we would like to implement the whole thing in one go, starting **Summer 2014** (we figure starting it in an 'off' qtr will enable us to work out any glitches.

We would like to shorten the catalog copy even more. Can we strike the parts I've put in red in your original?

thanks heaps - e

----- Original Message -----

From: Jennifer A. Payne
To: Eileen O'Connor
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 11:21 AM
Subject: Biology Admissions requirements questions.

Eileen,

I made some minor edits to the proposed catalog copy for the revised admissions requirements to bring it more in line with the competitive admissions language used in other A&S departments. What do you think about the below catalog copy?

Also I have questions about the timeline for implementation. We have to go by the date on the form so if you want the implantation to go in three phases I need three forms. Moreover I don't see where in your request you address the 2-year grace period transfer students get to be admitted under the old requirements.

Proposed:

Application to the BA and BS degree programs in Biology is competitive. Applications are accepted quarterly and are due the second Friday of autumn, winter, spring, and summer quarters by 11:59pm. Applications received by the system after the quarterly cut off will be considered for the subsequent quarter.

Minimum requirements for admission consideration:

1. Be a matriculated student at the UW Seattle campus in good academic standing.
2. Minimum grade of 2.0 in each of BIOL 180, BIOL 200, and BIOL 220.
3. Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA for any supporting chemistry, physics, mathematics, biology, or other courses that may apply to the Biology major requirements completed at time of application.
4. Personal Statement: May include a description of interest in biology, career goals, undergraduate research interests, degree interest (BA or BS), and any other information applicant believes is useful in evaluating the application.

Meeting these minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the Biology major. Other factors in admission include overall academic and difficulty of other courses completed; time to degree set by UW Satisfactory Progress

Policy including frequency of incompletes or withdrawal grades and number of repeated courses; relevant work and life experience; and record of honors

Jennifer

Jennifer Payne, M.Ed.
University Curriculum Procedures Analyst
Office of the Registrar
University of Washington
<http://depts.washington.edu/registra/curriculum/>
Phone: 206-543-5938
Email: uwcr@uw.edu
Box: 355850

Jennifer A. Payne

From: Eileen O'Connor <eoc@u.washington.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 2:50 PM
To: Jennifer A. Payne
Subject: Re: 1503 Questions from Committee

Hi Jennifer - here you go, let me know if you have more questions - e

- Have you considered adding Direct Freshman admissions to attract highly qualified and Biology focused freshman?

Yes, we have discussed this, but we wish them to complete the intro bio sequence first.

- They suggest you retain the more detailed paragraph I had suggested to you (copied from Chemistry) on what will be considered in admission decisions so students don't try to only take "easy" classes. In essence letting them know that you will be looking at the overall difficulty and grades taken to date not just grades.

Other factors in admission include overall coursework completed; time to degree set by UW Satisfactory Progress Policy including frequency of incompletes or withdrawal grades and number of repeated courses; relevant work and life experience.

(We are not worried about 'easy' courses, as they have to take chemistry to complete the intro Bio series and supporting courses must have a 2.5 CUM GPA)

- When are students expected to apply?

Any time after completing Bio180-200-220 that allows them to meet the UW criteria for timely completion of degree. We will admit students quarterly.

- Will current students (students admitted prior to SUM/2013) be exempted from the continuation policy?

No

- Suggest a fixed time period for advising plan (1-2 quarters) and if not why not?

To completion of degree.

- Is it a 2.0 CUM GPA in all courses applied to the major or only BIOL courses - it varies in the supporting documents and continuation policy? Please make consistent and email back.

For admission: 2.0 in each of Biol 180-200-220 and 2.5 CUM GPA for supporting coursework completed at time of application.

For continuation/graduation: 2.0 CUM GPA in all courses applied to the major.

- What happens in the scenario where a student has been on probation before and drops below a 2.0 at the end of winter quarter of their senior year, are they kicked out of the major per the only 1 probation policy?

Yes (per discussion with Kevin Mihata in A&S, although it is our sincere hope that our continuation policy will enable us to intervene in time to prevent this!)

----- Original Message -----

From: Jennifer A. Payne

To: Eileen O'Connor

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 10:14 AM

Subject: 1503 Questions from Committee

Eileen,

SCAP reviewed the 1503 last Friday and had some comments/suggestions they would like you review and respond to for their next meeting on Nov. 1st. These are questions and scenarios that have come up with other departments moving to competitive admissions.

- Have you considered adding Direct Freshman admissions to attract highly qualified and Biology focused freshman?
- They suggest you retain the more detailed paragraph I had suggested to you (copied from Chemistry) on what will be considered in admission decisions so students don't try to only take "easy" classes. In essence letting them know that you will be looking at the overall difficulty and grades taken to date not just grades.
- When are students expected to apply?
- Will current students (students admitted prior to SUM/2013) be exempted from the continuation policy?
- Suggest a fixed time period for advising plan (1-2 quarters) and if not why not?
- Is it a 2.0 CUM GPA in all courses applied to the major or only BIOL courses - it varies in the supporting documents and continuation policy? Please make consistent and email back.
- What happens in the scenario where a student has been on probation before and drops below a 2.0 at the end of winter quarter of their senior year, are they kicked out of the major per the only 1 probation policy?

Let me know if you have any questions.

Jennifer

Jennifer Payne, M.Ed.

University Curriculum Procedures Analyst

Office of the Registrar

University of Washington

<http://depts.washington.edu/registra/curriculum/>

Phone: 206-543-5938

Email: uwcr@uw.edu

Box: 355850

Jennifer A. Payne

From: Eileen O'Connor <eoc@u.washington.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Jennifer A. Payne
Subject: Re: 1503 Questions from Committee

Hi Jennifer - the process for getting these data is new, and we haven't received this qtr's data yet, but in summer qtr, 1 student out of 600+ majors enrolled was below a 2.0 (and that one was a 1.9).

cheers - e

----- Original Message -----

From: Jennifer A. Payne
To: Eileen O'Connor
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:20 AM
Subject: RE: 1503 Questions from Committee

Eileen,

If you were to apply the Continuation Policy to all current BIOL majors, how many would go on probation immediately?

Jennifer

From: Eileen O'Connor [mailto:eoc@u.washington.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 3:33 PM
To: Jennifer A. Payne
Subject: Re: 1503 Questions from Committee

or if you look at it and we've misinterpreted a question, let me know - thanks - e

----- Original Message -----

From: Jennifer A. Payne
To: Eileen O'Connor
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 2:52 PM
Subject: RE: 1503 Questions from Committee

Thanks. I will let you know after SCAP's November 1st meeting if they have any additional questions.

Jennifer

From: Eileen O'Connor [mailto:eoc@u.washington.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 2:50 PM
To: Jennifer A. Payne
Subject: Re: 1503 Questions from Committee

Hi Jennifer - here you go, let me know if you have more questions - e

- Have you considered adding Direct Freshman admissions to attract highly qualified and Biology focused freshman?

Yes, we have discussed this, but we wish them to complete the intro bio sequence first.

- They suggest you retain the more detailed paragraph I had suggested to you (copied from Chemistry) on what will be considered in admission decisions so students don't try to only take

University Curriculum Office (UWCR)

From: Eileen O'Connor <eoc@u.washington.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 04, 2013 3:08 PM
To: uwcr@uw.edu
Subject: Biology continuation policy

Hi Jennifer - I don't know if you'd call it 1 or 2 qtrs...here's the deal. We would get notified during the qtr after their GPA had dropped below the threshold. We would call them in, help them work out a plan, etc., and then they would have until the end of the **following qtr** to get their GPA up.

So it's 2 qtrs after their GPA goes below the min, but 1 qtr after we notify them that they are in trouble.

Hope this helps - cheers - e

Catalog Copy (Current 2013)

Bachelor of Arts

Suggested First- and Second-Year College Courses: Same as for the Bachelor of Science degree as described below, except no physics or third quarter of organic chemistry is required.

Department Admission Requirements

Same as for the Bachelor of Science degree as described below.

Major Requirements

90 credits as follows:

1. Introductory biology, three to six quarters of chemistry, and mathematics are the same as required by the BS, listed below. However, physics is not required and the remaining 36 upper-division elective credits may be chosen from any biology course or any courses on the electives lists from the six options for the BS degree.
2. *Additional Degree Requirements*
 - a. Minimum 15 credits of 400-level biology electives taken at the UW.
 - b. Minimum GPA requirements same as for a BS

Bachelor of Science

Suggested First- and Second-Year Courses: Students should concentrate on general chemistry and mathematics the first year, biology and organic chemistry the second year (see major requirements for specific courses). Transfer students: complete an entire sequence at one school if possible. It is not necessary, or even desirable, to complete the Areas of Knowledge requirement during the first two years.

Department Admission Requirements

BIOL 180 with a minimum grade of 2.5; or BIOL 180, BIOL 200, BIOL 220 (or full transfer equivalent) with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 for the three courses. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 is required for all courses which would apply toward major requirements (this includes all applicable chemistry, physics, mathematics, quantitative science, and introductory biological science courses).

Major Requirements

90 credits as follows:

3. For all options the following basic coursework is required:

- a. A one-year sequence of introductory biology for majors (BIOL 180, BIOL 200, BIOL 220)
- b. Three to six quarters of chemistry, covering general and organic chemistry: CHEM 120, CHEM 220, and CHEM 221; or CHEM 142, CHEM 152, CHEM 223, and CHEM 224; or CHEM 142, CHEM 152, CHEM 162* and CHEM 237, CHEM 238, and CHEM 239
- c. Two quarters of mathematics (calculus or statistics): MATH 124 and MATH 125, or MATH 144 and MATH 145, or Q SCI 291 and Q SCI 292, or Q SCI 381 (or STAT 311) and Q SCI 482
- d. Two quarters of physics: PHYS 114 and PHYS 115, or PHYS 121 and PHYS 122
- e. GENOME 371
- f. Natural history/biodiversity: one course selected from approved list (3 credits)
- g. *Option Requirement:* 300- and 400-level courses selected from lists specific to each option. See department website for additional information. (34 credits)

*CHEM 162 is not required for this degree; however, CHEM 237, CHEM 238, and CHEM 239 are required by many professional programs and graduate schools, and that sequence does require CHEM 162.

4. *Additional Degree Requirements:*

- a. Minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA for all UW courses applied toward major requirements, including required supporting courses (chemistry, physics, mathematics), introductory biology, and upper-division coursework. (A grade of 2.0 is not required in individual courses.)
- b. Minimum 15 credits of 400-level biology electives taken at the UW.
- c. Two 300- or 400-level laboratory courses

Because of the differing specific requirements and choices for each option, it is extremely important for students to work closely with the Biology departmental advisers to insure completion of these 22-25 credits.

Proposed Catalog Copy with Admissions Requirements

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Science

Suggested First- and Second-Year Courses: Students should concentrate on general chemistry and mathematics the first year, biology and organic chemistry the second year (see major requirements for specific courses). Transfer students: complete an entire sequence at one school if possible. It is not necessary, or even desirable, to complete the Areas of Knowledge requirement during the first two years. The Bachelor of Arts may only be completed with a General Biology Option and does not require physics or a third quarter of organic chemistry.

Major Requirements

90 credits as follows:

1. For all options the following basic coursework is required:
 - a. A one-year sequence of introductory biology for majors (BIOL 180, BIOL 200, BIOL 220)
 - b. Three to six quarters of chemistry, covering general and organic chemistry: CHEM 120, CHEM 220, and CHEM 221; or CHEM 142, CHEM 152, CHEM 223, and CHEM 224; or CHEM 142, CHEM 152, CHEM 162* and CHEM 237, CHEM 238, and CHEM 239
 - c. Two quarters of mathematics (calculus or statistics): MATH 124 and MATH 125, or MATH 144 and MATH 145, or Q SCI 291 and Q SCI 292, or Q SCI 381 (or STAT 311) and Q SCI 482
 - d. Two quarters of physics: PHYS 114 and PHYS 115, or PHYS 121 and PHYS 122
 - e. GENOME 371 or 361, or other approved genetics course.
 - f. Natural History/Biodiversity and Breadth: one course each selected from approved lists for each degree option.
 - g. *Option Requirement:* 300- and 400-level courses selected from lists specific to each option. See department website for additional information. (34 credits)

*CHEM 162 is not required for this degree; however, CHEM 237, CHEM 238, and CHEM 239 are required by many professional programs and graduate schools, and that sequence does require CHEM 162.

2. *Additional Degree Requirements:*

- a. Minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA for all UW courses applied toward major requirements, including required supporting courses (chemistry, physics,

mathematics), introductory biology, and upper-division coursework. (A grade of 2.0 is not required in individual courses.)

- b. Minimum 15 credits of 400-level Biology Department Electives taken at the UW-Seattle.
- c. Two 300- or 400-level laboratory courses

Because of the differing specific requirements and choices for each option, it is extremely important for students to work closely with the Biology Departmental Advisers to insure selection and completion of these credits also meet degree requirements.

Department Admission Requirements

Applications for the undergraduate degree programs in Biology are accepted quarterly. This completed electronic application is due the second Friday of Autumn, Winter, Spring, & Summer quarters by 11:59pm. Applications received by the system after the quarterly cut off will be considered for the subsequent quarter.

To apply for a Biology major you must meet these minimum Application Requirements:

1. Be a matriculated student at the UW Seattle Campus and in good academic standing.
2. Complete the Introductory Biology series (BIOL 180, 200, 220) and have a minimum grade of 2.0 in EACH course.
3. Have a minimum 2.5 Cumulative GPA for any supporting Chemistry, Physics, Math, Biology or other courses intended for use in the Biology major that are complete at the time of application see above major requirements.

Meeting these minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the Biology major. Other factors in admission include review of personal statement, space availability in the major, and time to degree set by UW Satisfactory Progress Policy.

If you did not earn a 2.0 in each of your Biology Intro courses and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 in prerequisite course work needed to apply to Biology, or if you have academic issues to explain that are larger than a single course or quarter, please see an academic adviser to address these issues prior to application.

Undergraduate Curriculum Review Process for New Programs

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Seattle: Competitive admissions for both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology (BIOL-20130827)

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Moderator actions

Reply

New conversation

uwcr

uwcr

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[Quoted text hidden]

Please review the attached 1503 pdf requesting to establish competitive admissions for both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology at the Seattle campus and post comments by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 4h.

If you have any problems viewing the attachment or need disability accommodations, please contact the University Curriculum Office at uwcr@uw.edu.

Attachments:



BIOL-20130827.pdf 7.4M

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FRED L BOOKSTEIN

Delete Edit Quote Permalink

I have appointments both in Seattle (statistics) and in Vienna, Austria (biology). In Vienna, admission to biology is not competitive, but it is a difficult process nevertheless. You must spend your entire freshman year more or less obsessing with some specific lecture courses, and pass them all with a grade equivalent to about our Seattle B.

The important distinction here is that Vienna does NOT offer a liberal education. All of that was taken care of in high school. The students who are struggling to get into second-year biology have ALREADY declared that they want to spend the rest of their college years studying biology -- this is why they committed the whole freshman year to biology in the first place. In this way, the student who wants to major in biology gets an entire year to study only biology, and at the end gets to show how good she is at it. Everybody who is in the major takes the same courses that year, and grading is stiff and in many ways terrifying. But the students we do get, who make it through this year, are certainly qualified to go on for the next three years in the major.

So you spend the year studying biology before the department decides whether or not to let you go on. In general, I approve of that strategy, but I don't see how its logic can apply in a context like Seattle's where the freshman year is devoted all at the same time to preprofessional education, sports, socialization, and exploration of the fields that my European students all mastered in high school. To do well on the requirement, you must avoid the temptations of all the rest of the university -- for instance, you'd better not take that course on the French Revolution if you want to make enough time for the competitive grade in biology. Such a double bind wouldn't apply in Europe; you're already done studying the French Revolution by the time you are taking those pre-examination required biology lectures.

In my view a competitive requirement for a major with this large a catchment doesn't make any sense in a liberal arts context like ours. If it is to apply, let it apply the year after the student declares for the biology major, so they've had a solid nine months of trying to do the best they can in biology. Otherwise, you are setting them up to game the system -- to take the easiest nonbiology courses they can just so they have a better chance of a B average in the biology screen. This is not the way we want our Arts and Sciences curriculum to induce our students to behave.

We want them to challenge themselves across the board, not just in pre-biology. To make them compete before they have had a year to polish their biology skills is in some sense a violation of the contract that brought them to our Arts and Sciences curriculum in the first place -- the contract that said we would gladly offer them a liberal education _first_, a preprofessional education second. The proposed change gets this backwards. The solution to the problem of student overdemand is not to restrict the major; it is to make the first year's teaching more efficient, by using every trick of the MOOC world, including quality control way back in high school.

Add to this conversation:

Font Name and Size

Font Style

Alignment

Paragraph Style

Indenting and Lists

Insert Item

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Spelling

Common formatting keyboard shortcuts:

Control Shift B sets text to bold

Control Shift I sets text to italic

Control Shift U underlines text

Control Shift [aligns text left

Control Shift | centers text

Control Shift] aligns text right

Control Shift L adds an HTML link

To exit this text editor use the keyboard shortcut Control + Shift + ESC.

Attach file



Undergraduate Curriculum Review Process for New... > Seattle: Competitive admissions for both the Ba...

Biology response to Fred Bookstein's comment on the change to a competitive major for Biology:

Our main goal in doing this is to ensure that the students who become Biology majors have the skills to succeed as biologists. We are not trying to limit the major to a small number of students, but are concerned about the people who declare Biology as a major because it is available, but who then linger in the major for several years without advancing in Biology.

The changes to the admission process are minor, but are based on what we have seen make successful Biology majors: successful completion of any of the science courses that they are required to have as Biology majors and successful completion of the introductory biology sequence (which is already required for most of our upper division Biology classes).

We do not think that 'gaming the system' will be a problem, as the courses in the screen are the ones we want them to have for Biology.

We work very hard at providing a lot of structure and help in our introductory classes – our goal is to have them all do well. We are not trying to eliminate them, and typically 85 – 90% of the students taking Bio 180 receive a grade that allows them to advance to Bio 200.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Eileen O'Connor

Faculty Coordinator of Biology Instruction
eoc@uw.edu
543-9621

UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM REVIEW PROCEDURES**

CHECKLIST

Title of Proposal: Competitive admissions for both the Bachelor of Arts and
Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology (BIOL-20130827)

Proposed by (unit name): Biology

Originating Campus:

☒ UW, Seattle

☐ UW, Bothell

☐ UW, Tacoma

I. Phase I. Developed Proposal Review (to be completed by Originating Campus' Academic Program Review body)

A. Review Completed by: (list name of program review body)

Chaired by:

11/08/13 Date proposal received by originating campus's review body

11/11/13 Date proposal sent to University Registrar

11/13/13 Date proposal posted & email sent to standard notification list

01/10/14 Date of originating campus's curriculum body approval

(Note: this date must be 15 business days or more following date of posting)

B. 1 Number of comments received. Attach the comments and a summary of the
consideration and responses thereof : (1-2 paragraphs)

II. Phase II. Final Proposal Review (to be completed by FCTCP)

A. Review Completed by:

☒ FCTCP subcommittee

☐ FCTCP full council

Chaired by: William Erdly

01/15/14 Date request for review received from University Registrar

01/22/14 Date of FCTCP report

B. Review (attached)

YES NO

- ☒ Was notice of proposal posted on UW Website for 15 business days?
- ☒ Was notice of proposal sent to standard mailing list 15 business days in advance of academic program review?
- ☒ Were comments received by academic program review body?
- ☒ Was response to comments appropriate? (explain, if necessary)
- ☒ Was final proposal reviewed by FCTCP within 14 days of receipt?
- ☒ Was there adherence to the University Campuses Undergraduate Program Review Process? (explain, if necessary)

C. Recommendation

- ☒ Forward for final approval
- ☐ Forward to Provost because of University issues (Explain)
- ☐ Return to campus council because of insufficient review (Explain).

**Endorsed by Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 1/10/05, modified 1/31/06; These procedures apply to new undergraduate degrees, majors, minors (and certificates) and substantive changes to same