

Biological Sciences

Faculty:

Murphey, R., Chair; Baldwin, J.; Benscoter, B.; Binninger, D.; Brooks, W. R.; Caruso, J.; Dorn, N.; Esiobu, N.; Frazier, E.; Gawlik, D.; Godenschwege, T.; Hartmann, J. X.; Hughes, C.; Jia, K.; Kajiura, S.; Koch-Rose, M.; Kumi-Diaka, J.; Lyons, H. J.; Milton, S.; Narayanan, R.; Noonburg, E.; Proffitt, E.; Salmon, M.; Theisen, T.; Weissbach, H.; Wyneken, J.; Zhang, X-H.

The Department of Biological Sciences offers undergraduate degree programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. A grade of "C-" or better (unless otherwise noted in the course description) is required in all biology AND cognate courses taken as part of the requirements for an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences. However, students must maintain a "C" average in departmental major courses. The department also offers an Honors Program, a minor in Biological Sciences and an undergraduate certificate program in Biotechnology. A Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Neuroscience and Behavior is offered jointly with the Department of Psychology. This major is detailed under the [Psychology Department section](#).

Master's-level degree programs include the Master of Science (M.S.), the Master of Science in Teaching (M.S.T.) and a [Professional Science Master's Degree in Business Biotechnology](#).

Two combined programs are also available. In one, students earn a B.S./M.S. in Biological Sciences and in the other, a [B.S. in Biological Sciences and an M.S. in Environmental Science](#).

Recency of Undergraduate Credits Transfer Policy

No credits more than 10 years old may be transferred into or applied to an FAU Biology undergraduate program. Any credits that are transferred in are considered earned in the first semester of enrollment at FAU.

[Link to Bachelor of Science Program](#)

[Link to Additional Undergraduate Offerings](#)

[Link to Combined Programs](#)

[Link to Master's Programs](#)

Bachelor of Arts Degree

(Minimum of 120 credits required)

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree is intended to provide maximum flexibility for students pursuing study in interdisciplinary areas such as environmental science or secondary school teaching. In addition to the University and College degree requirements, students seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences must complete the following core requirements. All degree programs require a total of 120 credits, 45 of which must be upper-division credits.

Prerequisite Coursework for Transfer Students

Students transferring to Florida Atlantic University must complete both lower-division requirements (including the requirements of the Intellectual Foundations Program) and requirements for the college and major. Lower-division requirements may be completed through the A.A. degree from any Florida public college, university or community college or through equivalent coursework at another regionally accredited institution. Before transferring and to ensure timely progress toward the baccalaureate degree, students must also complete the prerequisite courses for their major as outlined in the [Transfer Student Manual](#).

All courses not approved by the Florida Statewide Course Numbering System that will be used to satisfy requirements will be evaluated individually on the basis of content and will require a catalog course description and a copy of the syllabus for assessment.

Core Requirements	40-41
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Biological Principles and Lab	BSC 1010, 1010L	4
Biodiversity and Lab	BSC 1011, 1011L	4
Select at least three of the following four courses:		
Genetics	PCB 3063	4
Cell Biology	PCB 3023	3
Principles of Ecology	PCB 4043	3
Evolution	PCB 3674	3
General Chemistry 1	CHM 2045	3
General Chemistry 1 Lab	CHM 2045L	1
General Chemistry 2	CHM 2046	3
General Chemistry 2 Lab	CHM 2046L	1
Organic Chemistry 1	CHM 2210	3
Organic Chemistry 2	CHM 2211	3
Methods of Calculus	MAC 2233	3
Experimental Design and Statistical Inference	PSY 3234	3
Physical Science	PSC 2121	3

Biology Electives	15	
<i>Select at least 15 credits from the list below:</i>		
Biochemistry 1	BCH 3033	3
Vascular Plant Anatomy and Lab	BOT 3223, 3223L	4
Marine Botany and Lab	BOT 4404, 4404L	4
Principles of Plant Physiology and Lab	BOT 4503, 4503L	4

Plant Biotechnology	BOT 4734C	3
Biotechnology 1 Lab	BSC 4403L	2
Biotechnology 2 Lab	BSC 4427L	2
Biology of Cancer	BSC 4806	3
Directed Independent Study	BSC 4905	1-3
Honors Research	BSC 4917	3
Honors Thesis	BSC 4918	3
Special Topics (Model Systems Genetics Lab)	BSC 4930	3
Organic Chemistry Lab	CHM 2211L	2
General Microbiology and Lab	MCB 3020, 3020L	4
Medical Bacteriology	MCB 4203	3
Microbial Ecology	MCB 4603	3
Marine Biodiversity and Lab	OCB 4032, 4032L	4
Marine Biology and Lab	OCB 4043, 4043L	4
Marine Microbiology and Molecular Biology and Lab	OCB 4525, 4525L	4
Marine Ecology and Lab	OCB 4633, 4633L	4
Marine Science	OCE 4006	4
Issues in Human Ecology	PCB 3352	3
Human Morphology and Function 1 and Lab	PCB 3703, 3703L	4
Human Morphology and Function 2 and Lab	PCB 3704, 3704L	4 or
Immunology	PCB 4233	3
Molecular Genetics	PCB 4522	3
Comparative Animal Physiology and Lab	PCB 4723, 4723L	4

Reproductive Endocrinology	PCB 4803	3
Cellular Neuroscience and Disease	PCB 4842	3
Practical Cell Neuroscience	PCB 4843C	3
Invertebrate Zoology and Lab	ZOO 2203, 2203L	5
Functional Biology of Marine Animals and Lab	ZOO 4402, 4402L	4
Ornithology and Lab	ZOO 4472, 4472L	4
Comparative Vertebrate Morphogenesis and Lab	ZOO 4690, 4690L	5

Note: PHY 2053 may be substituted for PSC 2121.

Environmental Sciences Focus

Complete all of the above and the following electives.

Biology Elective		
Issues in Human Ecology	PCB 3352	3 or
Environment and Society	EVR 2017	3

General Electives		
Macroeconomics	ECO 2013	3
Microeconomics	ECO 2023	3
Environmental Economics	ECP 4302	3
Environmental Ethics	PHI 3640	3

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Bachelor of Science Degree

(Minimum of 120 credits required)

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree is recommended for students planning to be professional biologists in industry or governmental service, for graduate work in the biological sciences and for students planning careers in medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine. In addition to the University and College degree requirements, students seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences must complete the following degree requirements.

Prerequisite Coursework for Transfer Students

Students transferring to Florida Atlantic University must complete both lower-division requirements (including the requirements of the Intellectual Foundations Program) and requirements for the college and major. Lower-division requirements may be completed through the A.A. degree from any Florida public college, university or community college or through equivalent coursework at another regionally accredited institution. Before transferring and to ensure timely progress toward the baccalaureate degree, students must also complete the prerequisite courses for their major as outlined in the [Transfer Student Manual](#).

All courses not approved by the Florida Statewide Course Numbering System that will be used to satisfy requirements will be evaluated individually on the basis of content and will require a catalog course description and a copy of the syllabus for assessment.

Core Requirements (47-49 credits)		
Biological Principles and Lab	BSC 1010, 1010L	4
Biodiversity and Lab	BSC 1011, 1011L	4
General Chemistry 1 and Lab	CHM 2045, 2045L	4
General Chemistry 2 and Lab	CHM 2046, 2046L	4
Organic Chemistry 1	CHM 2210	3
Organic Chemistry 2	CHM 2211	3
Methods of Calculus	MAC 2233	3 or
Calculus with Analytic Geometry 1	MAC 2311	4
College Physics 1	PHY 2053	4 or
General Physics 1	PHY 2048	4
College Physics 2	PHY 2054	4 or
General Physics 2	PHY 2049	4
General Physics 1 Lab	PHY 2048L	1
General Physics 2 Lab	PHY 2049L	1
Experimental Design and Statistical Inference	PSY 3234	3 or
Introduction to Biostatistics	STA 3173	3
Select at least three of the courses below (the other may be used as an elective)		
Genetics	PCB 3063	4

Cell Biology	PCB 3023	3
Principles of Ecology	PCB 4043	3
Evolution	PCB 3674	3

Electives (select at least 21 credits from the list below)

(The Department of Psychology and Department of Biological Sciences jointly administer the Neuroscience and Behavior major. Thus, Biology majors may choose electives from that [program list](#) as well.)

Biochemistry 1	BCH 3033	3
Vascular Plant Anatomy and Lab	BOT 3223, 3223L	4
Marine Botany and Lab	BOT 4404, 4404L	4
Principles of Plant Physiology and Lab	BOT 4503, 4503L	4
Plant Biotechnology	BOT 4734C	3
Biotechnology 1 Lab	BSC 4403L	2
Biotechnology 2 Lab	BSC 4427L	2
Biology of Cancer	BSC 4806	3
Directed Independent Study	BSC 4905	1-3
Honors Research	BSC 4917	3
Honors Thesis	BSC 4918	3
Special Topics (Model Systems Genetics Lab)	BSC 4930	3
Organic Chemistry Lab	CHM 2211L	2
Critical Thinking in Environmental Science	EVS 4021	3
General Microbiology and Lab	MCB 3020, 3020L	4
Medical Bacteriology	MCB 4203	3
Microbial Ecology	MCB 4603	3

Marine Biodiversity and Lab	OCB 4032, 4032L	4
Marine Biology and Lab	OCB 4043, * 4043L	4
Marine Microbiology and Molecular Biology and Lab	OCB 4525, 4525L	4
Marine Ecology and Lab	OCB 4633, 4633L	4
Marine Science	OCE 4006	4
Issues in Human Ecology	PCB 3352	3
Human Morphology and Function 1 and Lab	PCB 3703, 3703L	4
Human Morphology and Function 2 and Lab	PCB 3704, 3704L	4 or
Immunology	PCB 4233	3
Molecular Genetics	PCB 4522	3
Comparative Animal Physiology and Lab	PCB 4723, 4723L	4
Reproductive Endocrinology	PCB 4803	3
Cellular Neuroscience and Disease	PCB 4842	3
Practical Cell Neuroscience	PCB 4843C	3
Invertebrate Zoology and Lab	ZOO 2203, 2203L	5
Functional Biology of Marine Animals and Lab	ZOO 4402, 4402L	4
Ornithology and Lab	ZOO 4472, 4472L	4
Comparative Vertebrate Morphogenesis and Lab	ZOO 4690, 4690L	5

Students should consult their faculty advisor concerning additional courses that may be applied to their degree requirements.

Biology Honors Thesis Program

The Department of Biological Sciences offers an Honors Thesis Program that recognizes research accomplishments of talented undergraduates. Eligible students must have a minimum of 20 credits in biology and an overall GPA of 3.2. Students usually begin the program in their junior year and conduct independent, supervised research during their junior and senior years. A written paper and a seminar describing the results of their research are required in the senior year. Interested students should contact the faculty member whose research interests are closest to those the student wishes to pursue.

Biology Honors Research Program

The Department of Biological Sciences offers an Honors Research Program that recognizes research accomplishments of talented undergraduates. Eligible students must have a minimum of 20 credits in biology and an overall GPA of 3.2. Students usually begin the program in their junior year and conduct independent, supervised research during their junior and senior years. Submission of a grant proposal is required no later than the second semester of the junior year. Presentation of a poster or seminar at a local, regional, national or international research conference/symposium describing the results of their research is required in the senior year. Interested students should contact the faculty member whose research interests are closest to those the student wishes to pursue. For more information, see <http://biology.fau.edu/academics/undergraduate/research.php>.