PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018

Dean Linda Hicke in the College of Natural Sciences has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following changes to the Undergraduate Catalog, 2016-2018. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of general interest to more than one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the changes on February 4, 2016, and forwarded the proposal to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with UT System.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by February 24, 2016.

Hillary Hart, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

Posted on the Faculty Council website (http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on February 11, 2016.
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018

Type of Change  ☒ Academic Change  ☐ Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

Proposed classification  ☐ Exclusive  ☒ General  ☐ Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACS-COC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.
   • Is this a new degree program?  Yes ☐  No ☒
   • Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus?  Yes ☐  No ☒
   • Will courses in this program be delivered electronically?  Yes ☐  No ☒

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

   Bachelor of Science in Biology

   Remove warning to students that degree has little flexibility.

   **Rationale:** The newly created common biology core and standardization of course lists across degree options provides flexibility that students did not have in previous catalogs. In several options, specified requirements have been trimmed.

   Prescribed Work Common to All Options

   1) Removal of the minimum hours of upper-division biology and minimum of one biology course from three areas (breadth).
      **Rationale:** The removal of the breadth requirement in general for all degree options (it still exists as it was in some of the options) affords students that have decided on a particular area of biology to have the flexibility to satisfy breadth through a minor in another field of science, certificate, or to select a broad range of upper division courses as electives. In short - removing the list of specific courses required to satisfy “breadth” enables students to choose their own meaning of “breadth” while staying within 120 hours.

   2) Relocate and standardize the introductory courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and statistics and data sciences. Reduce calculus requirement in most options to 1 semester; add M 408R as an alternative to M 408C or 408N.
      **Rationale:** There was never a common introductory science core in existence before. In some ways this is more of a presentation change than an actual change as most of the Biology Options already contained most of these courses. The changes were made to standardize the specific Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry courses required so that students could more easily change their minds about which option to pursue without retaking different introductory courses specific to that option. The biology-related departments determined that 1 semester of calculus is sufficient for most options.

   3) Addition of BIO 370, Evolution, to the Prescribed Work Common to All Options.
      **Rationale:** Like BIO 325, Genetics, every biology degree holder should have a thorough understanding of evolution, as such knowledge is necessary for every upper other division course.

   4) Remove foreign language/foreign culture requirement from the following options: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior; Marine and Freshwater Science; Microbiology and Infectious Diseases; Cell and Molecular Biology; Plant Biology; and Computational Biology.
Rationale: As most scientific literature is in English, this is no longer relevant for biology majors. Students can still take foreign languages as electives as most of the requirements in the options are under 120 hours.

Option I: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior
1) Addition of 1 course chosen from list in cellular, developmental, genetics, microbiology, molecular, or neurobiology coursework.
   Rationale: This replaces the standard breadth requirement in a manner more targeted to the specific option.
2) Specifying list from which students will choose 1 additional laboratory course (requirement 8).
   Previously, students chose a lab from a diverse list containing options from across the sub-disciplines in biology.
   Rationale: The labs on the new list are the ones most relevant to the option.
3) Rearrange already required coursework and identify lab choices in requirement #8.
   Rationale: The remainder of the changes in this option are a rearrangements of already existing required coursework, and specification of lab choices for an additional laboratory course in requirement 8.

Option II: Human Biology
1) Deletion of the concentration requirements in Group A and Group B.
   Rationale: Removed for simplification.
2) Adoption of the use of 3 lists of approved courses: 1) genetics, genomics, and computational biology; 2) cellular, developmental, and molecular biology; and 3) ecology, environment, and health.
   Rationale: A list of 4 biology disciplines was adopted to make the breadth requirements in the different options consistent where possible, and also updated to reflect 21st century categorizations of sub-disciplines.
3) Specify list from which students will choose 1 additional laboratory course (requirement 8).
   Previously, students chose a lab from a diverse list containing options from across the sub-disciplines in biology.
   Rationale: The listed labs are those most relevant to the option.

Option III: Marine and Freshwater Science
1) Addition of BIO 373 as a specific requirement.
   Rationale: Upper-division courses in Marine Science assume a foundation in ecology. BIO 373, Ecology, was removed from the required coursework for all BS BIO options, so it was included in required courses for the Marine and Freshwater Science option, to ensure that all students had appropriate preparation for Marine Science coursework.
2) Reduction of organic chemistry sequence to CH 320M.
   Rationale: Upon further faculty review, it was determined that only the first semester of organic chemistry is necessary as a foundation for other coursework.
3) Removal of 3 hours of geological sciences chosen from courses that may count toward a major in geological sciences. Addition of GEO 341G as an option for one of the sequences in requirement 9.
   Rationale: Not all GEO courses that count towards a Geology degree are relevant to Marine Science. After review of current GEO offerings, applicable courses were included under the two-course sequence in requirement 9.
4) Addition of requirement to complete 1 two-course sequence chosen from variety composed of BIO pairs and GRG pairs of courses.
**Rationale:** Several departments offer courses whose topics are very related to Marine Science. The two-course sequence directs students to pursue a “focus” area that is offered to augment and broaden their background in areas relevant to marine science.

5) Removal of additional upper-division laboratory requirement.
   **Rationale:** Almost all upper-division Marine Science courses include a significant lab or field component. After reviewing the list of upper-division courses, it became apparent that the two requirements were redundant. It is not possible to complete 12 hours of upper-division coursework in Marine Science without simultaneously completing the laboratory requirement.

6) Update of BIO 101C (Topic 1: Marine Science Seminar) to MNS 101.
   **Rationale:** Course description for BIO X101C now states “may not be counted toward a degree in the College of Natural Sciences.” This change was made without recalling how it would impact this requirement. Since the Marine Science Seminar is required for all MNS majors, Marine Science is establishing its own course number.

7) Reduce to 12 upper-division hours from approved list in BIO, GEO, and MNS.
   **Rationale:** The hours from an approved list of BIO, GEO, and MNS courses was reduced from 21 to 12 hours due to the inclusion of other requirements such as the two-course sequence and BIO 373.

**Option IV: Microbiology and Infectious Diseases**
1) Laboratory requirement changes: Requiring both lab courses to be chosen from a list of 3 courses. Previously, only 1 of the 2 labs had to be chosen from a specific list. Deletion of BIO 206L as a specific lab requirement.
   **Rationale:** BIO 206L was deleted because it does not really prepare students for the upper-division microbiology labs as well as BIO 226L does. Requiring two upper-division labs gives the students a more rigorous training in Microbiology.

**Option V: Cell and Molecular Biology**
1) Specifying 2 labs from list of 5 upper-division courses. Previously, students chose labs from a diverse list containing options from across the sub-disciplines in biology.
   **Rationale:** Listed labs are more targeted to this option. Many of these labs did not exist when the original degree plan was written.

2) Addition of 18 hours in upper-division biochemistry, biology, and chemistry.
   **Rationale:** This replaces the previous standard breadth requirement and targets the hours to courses most relevant to the option.

**Option VI: Neurobiology (deletion of option)**
1) Delete Neurobiology degree option.
   **Rationale:** Replaced by BS in Neuroscience, Option III: Neuroscience (proposed for 2016 catalog). The Department of Neuroscience will continue to offer coursework to allow neurobiology students under the 2014-16 catalog to complete the degree prior to the catalog expiration in August 2022.

**Option VII: Plant Biology**
1) Specifying particular biology courses instead of requiring 21 hours from a list of 19 courses/pairs of courses.
   **Rationale:** The specification is to ensure that students in this option are taking a sufficient number of plant biology courses.

2) Creation of two sequences from which students choose 1: 1) plant molecular biology, and 2) plant environmental biology.
Rationale: Students interested in environmental studies do not require some of the more molecularly-oriented background courses, such as organic chemistry.

2) Addition of 18 upper-division hours in biochemistry, biology, chemistry, and marine science.

Rationale: This requirement replaces the previous standard breadth requirement and targets it to courses most relevant to the option, while still giving students a lot of choice.

Option VIII: Teaching
1) Reduction in choice of biology courses from which to choose.
   Rationale: This was not a reduction of biology courses in total. Some were pulled into the common biology core.

2) Elimination of a course containing a significant field component.
   Rationale: It is difficult for students to get seats in field courses. Therefore, the faculty broadened the requirement to include a choice of courses with a field component and other courses that emphasized organism-level biology, which is considered the most helpful for secondary level teachers.

Option IX, Biology Honors
1) Adoption of 4 approved lists from which students choose 24 hours: 1) cellular, developmental, and molecular biology; 2) genetics and genomics; 3) physiology, neurobiology, and behavior; and 4) ecology, evolution, and biodiversity.
   Rationale: A list of 4 biology disciplines was adopted to make the breadth requirements in the different options consistent where possible, and also updated to reflect 21st century categorizations of sub-disciplines.

Option X: Computational Biology
1) Adoption of 3 approved lists from which students choose 6 hours: 1) cellular, developmental, and molecular biology; 2) physiology, neurobiology, and behavior; and 3) ecology, evolution, and biodiversity.
   Rationale: Three of the 4 biology disciplines was adopted to make the breadth requirements in the different options consistent where possible, and also updated to reflect 21st century categorization of subdisciplines.

2) Specification of lab requirements (1 lab from core biology coursework; 1 additional lab from requirement 9, chosen from specific list).
   Rationale: The labs on the new list are the ones most relevant to this option.

Option XI: Biology (proposed option)
1) Add option titled Biology.
   Rationale: The Biology option is for students who want a broad education in all aspects of Biology. This degree option will enable the students to explore all areas of biology, and also to explore a particular area in more depth, or to take a minor in another field of science, or a certificate. A student can continue to explore areas of biology the entire time that they are undergraduates and focus on a specialty as juniors or seniors when they find one, or not, and still have a solid biology degree within the constraints of 120 hours. This option prepares students for graduate school, medical school, or an entry-level biotechnology job. It is also highly flexible for students who need time to find what interests them the most, or for students who want the broadest possible biology education.

Option XII: Genetics and Genomics (proposed option)
1) Add option titled Genetics and Genomics
**Rationale:** Genetics and Genomics are among the most important disciplines in biology in the 21st century. This option allows interested students to focus in depth on this important and rapidly changing field that is surely to touch on every aspect of their lives. The option is for pre-medical students, pre-vet students, pre-graduate school students, and for students wanting a career in biotechnology with or without post-baccalaureate education.

3. **THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES (Please check all that apply)**
   - [ ] Courses in other colleges
   - [ ] Courses in proposer’s college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges
   - [ ] Change in course sequencing for an existing program
   - [ ] Change in admission requirements (external or internal)
   - [ ] Change in admission requirements (internal)
   - [ ] Change in admission requirements (external)
   - [ ] Courses that have to be added to the inventory
   - [ ] Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)
   - [ ] X Deletion of 1 degree option.
   - [ ] X Addition of 2 degree options.

4. **SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE**
   a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools?  
      Yes [x] No [ ]
   b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college?  
      Yes [ ] No [x]
   c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college?  
      Yes [ ] No [x]
   d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges?  
      Yes [x] No [ ]

   If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

   1) We anticipate a decrease in the number of students who take coursework in Liberal Arts. Most students seeking this degree either have foreign language via placement (no impact on Liberal Arts from these students) or take six hours of foreign culture. It is this second group that will impact seats in Liberal Arts, though the seats are spread across a wide range of fields of study. The fourteen areas of foreign culture are organized thematically in language/culture/geographic areas, such as Japan, Central and South America, and Middle East. Each list may be composed of 20 to 80 courses, in a wide range of fields of study (anthropology, classical civilization, geography, history, philosophy, sociology, e.g.). Thus, students who completed foreign culture for this requirement were not concentrated in any particular set of courses or fields of study.

   2) We anticipate at most a very small increase (3-4 students per year) in seats for the Geography and Geology courses added to Option VII, Marine and Freshwater Science.

   **If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.**

   How many students do you expect to be impacted?

   Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included: College of Liberal Arts

   Person communicated with: Richard Flores, Senior Associate Dean

   Date of communication: February 4, 2016
Response: No objection to removal of foreign language/foreign culture requirement during CUDPR meeting.

How many students do you expect to be impacted? 3 to 4 seats per year
Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included: Jackson School of Geosciences (addition of GEO 341G in Option VII)
Person communicated with: Richard Ketcham, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Date of communication: August 22, 2015
Response: I have finally managed to verify with the instructor that including this course in your plan would be fine.

How many students do you expect to be impacted? 3 to 4 seats per year
Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included: Department of Geography and the Environment (GRG courses in Option VII)
Person communicated with: Sheryl Beach (chair) via response from Craig Gilden, senior academic advisor
Date of communication: April 14, 2015
Response: I just want to confirm with you that the department is happy to have some of its classes on the MNS course lists.

e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: No
If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:
Person communicated with:
Date of communication:
Response:

f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? If yes, explain: Yes. If yes, explain: All options other than Option VIII, Teaching, will reduce the overall hours from 126 to 120. This will reduce the need for students to take an overload or enroll in a summer session or additional long semester.

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS
Department approval date: April 6, 2015; August 24, 2015 (MNS only); September 15, 2015
College approval date: May 27, 2015; September 2, 2015 (MNS only); September 28, 2015
Dean approval date: September 28, 2015, David Vanden Bout, Associate Dean

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

The Bachelor of Science in Biology degree program offers ten options. The options have certain prescribed work in common, and each option has additional requirements. Many fields in the study of biological systems require broadly based training that transcends the classical boundaries of biology. In planning a program of work to meet his or her degree requirements, a student interested in specializing in these interdisciplinary areas should choose courses both in biology and in sciences that complement biology. Students who plan to complete the program within four years will have little flexibility in course selection unless they plan a schedule in advance. More information is given in order and choice of work below. Students who plan to follow option IX, biology honors, must be admitted to the Dean’s Scholars Honors Program.
Prescribed Work Common to All Options

All students pursuing an undergraduate degree must complete the University’s Core Curriculum. In addition, students seeking the Bachelor of Science in Biology must complete the following degree-level requirements. In some cases, courses that fulfill degree-level requirements also meet the requirements of the core.

1. Two courses with a writing flag. One of these courses must be upper-division.
2. One course with a quantitative reasoning flag.

Courses with flags are identified in the Course Schedule. They may be used simultaneously to fulfill other requirements, unless otherwise specified.

3. Options I, III–VII and X. One of the following foreign language/culture choices. Students in options II, VIII, and IX are exempt from this requirement.
   a. Second-semester level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language.
   b. First-semester level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language and a three-semester-hour course in the culture of the same language area.
   c. Two three-semester hour courses in one foreign culture area chosen from an approved list available in the dean’s office and the college advising centers.

4. At least twenty-four semester hours of upper-division coursework beyond Biology 325 in biology and approved related fields, including at least one course from each of the following areas. In most options, the student must use specific courses to meet this requirement; these courses are listed in Additional Prescribed Work for Each Option.

3. Courses common to all Bachelor of Science in Biology degree options except for option IX.
   a. Cellular, developmental, and molecular biology: Biology 320, 326R, 341, 349. Mathematics 408C, 408R, or 408N and 408S. Students who intend to take additional calculus coursework should begin the sequence with 408C or 408N.
   b. Physiology and neuroscience: Biology 328, 361T, 365S, Neuroscience 365R. Statistics and Data Sciences 328M.
   d. One of the following sequences:
      i. Physics 317K, 117M, 317L, and 117N (recommended)
      ii. Physics 301, 101L, 316, and 116L
      iii. Physics 303K, 103M, 303L, and 103N
      iv. Physics 302K, 102M, 302L, and 102N
   Option VIII Teaching majors may substitute Science 365 and Physics 108 for Physics 316 and 116L, 317L and 117N, 303L and 103N, or 302L and 102N; Physics 108 is offered on the pass/fail basis.
   e. Biology, including:
      i. Biology 311C, 311D, and 325, or 315H and 325H.
      ii. Biology 206L, 208L, or 226L. This requirement must be completed prior to progressing to additional laboratory requirements in the degree options. Students pursuing option III, Marine and Freshwater Science, and option IV, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, must complete Biology 226L. Students pursuing option VIII, Teaching, must complete either Biology 206L or 208L.
      iii. Biology 370.

4. 5. All students must complete at least thirty-six semester hours of upper-division coursework; at least twenty-one semester hours of upper-division coursework in biology must be completed in residence at the University.

Additional Prescribed Work for Each Option

Option I: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

5. Mathematics 408C and 408D, or 408N and 408S. One course or pair of courses in each of the following areas:
6. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following: Three additional courses or pair of courses chosen from coursework in 5a through 5c and from Biology 438L, 471G, 456L, 359R, 364, 364E, 472L, 373L, 374 and 174L, 375, 478L, Marine Science 352C and 354Q.
   d. Physics 301L, 101L, 316, and 116L;
   e. Physics 317K, 117M, 317L, and 117N;
   f. Physics 303K, 103M, 303L, and 103N;
   g. Physics 302K, 102M, 302L, and 102N.
8. Either Biology 311C, 311D, and 325 or Biology 315H and 325H; these courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper division biology courses. One laboratory course or pair of courses containing a substantial field component: Biology 321L, 340L, 353F, 453L, 354L, 455L, 456L, 369L, 373L, Marine Science 320 and 120L, 352C, 352D, 354, 354C, 354E. A laboratory course or pair of courses may also count toward requirements 5 through 7.
9. At least four laboratory courses in biology; three of these courses must be upper division. One of the four courses must have a field component; the following courses may be used to meet this requirement: Biology 321L, 340L, 453L, 354L, 354Q. One additional laboratory course: Biology 320L, 321L, 124L, 127L, 325L, 351, 352, 352D, 354, 354C, 354E. One-hour laboratory courses may require credit for or registration in a supplementary lecture course. A laboratory course may also count toward requirements 5 through 7. A course counted toward requirement 8 may not also count toward requirement 9.
10. Statistics and Data Sciences 328M and three hours of coursework One course chosen from the following: Chemistry 320M, Computer Science 303E or 313E or the equivalent, Geological Sciences 401 or 303, or an upper division mathematics course: Statistics and Data Sciences 332 or 348.
11. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete the following courses; no single course may be used to meet more than one of these requirements:
   h. Ecology: Biology 357, 373, or Marine Science 320.
   i. Evolution: Biology 370.
   j. Behavior and comparative physiology: Biology 322 and 122L, 350K, or 361T.
   l. Six additional hours chosen from the following:
      i. Evolution: 472L, 374 and 174L, 478L.
      iii. Behavior: Biology 438L, 350I, 359R.
13. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 126 semester hours.

Option II: Human Biology
5. Mathematics 408C or 408N, and Statistics and Data Sciences 328M*. Chemistry 320M, 320N, 220C.
6. One of the following courses: Mathematics 408D, 408S, or Statistics and Data Sciences 348.
    Biochemistry 369 or 339F.
7. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following: Biology 346.
   a. Physics 301, 101L, 316, and 116L;
c. Physiology: Biology 361T, 365S, Neuroscience 365R.  

2. In fulfilling requirement 1 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete Biology 314, at least six semester hours in area a below, and at least three hours in areas b through d.  


f. Physiology: Biology 361T, 365S, Neuroscience 365R.  


h. Evolution and ecology: Biology 357, 361, 370, 373.  

3. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete at least fifteen semester hours of coursework, including at least nine hours of upper division work, from one of the two following groups of concentrations. A course counted toward requirement 12 may not also be counted toward requirement 14. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

**Group A: Biochemistry. 369 and twelve additional hours chosen from the following concentrations.**  

d. Psychology: Sociology 319, 369K.  

**Group B: Fifteen hours chosen from the following concentrations.** Only one of the following courses may be counted: Anthropology 432L, Biology 446L*, 478L*, or Kinesiology 324K*. Sociology 319 and 369K may not both be counted.  
15. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

Option III: Marine and Freshwater Science

5. Mathematics 408C and 408D, or 408N and 408S. Chemistry 320M.

6. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following: Biology 326R, 226L, and 373.
   a. Physics 301L, 101L, 316, and 116L;
   c. Physics 303K, 103M, 303L, and 103N; or
   d. Physics 302K, 102M, 302L, and 102N

7. Mathematics 408C and 408D, or 408N and 408S. Chemistry 320M.

8. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following: Biology 326R, 226L, and 373.
   a. Physics 301L, 101L, 316, and 116L;
   c. Physics 303K, 103M, 303L, and 103N; or
   d. Physics 302K, 102M, 302L, and 102N.

9. Chemistry 301 or 301H, 302 or 302H, 204, 220C, 320M, and 320N. Marine Science 101, 310, 320, and 120L.

10. At least four laboratory courses in biology, of which three must be upper-division; the student must complete Biology 206L or 208L. One of the following sequences: Six hours of related courses chosen from one of the following options:
   a. Biology 320 and 344
   b. Biology 328 and 361T
   c. Biology 357 and 375
   d. Biology 364 and 366 or Geology 341G
   e. Geography 301C or 301K and 333K
   f. Geography 301C and 356 or 356T
   g. Geography 306C and 334, 339C, or 356
   h. Geography 310C and 360G or 355N

11. Biology 328M or Statistics and Data Sciences 328M. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

12. Marine Science 310; Biology 101C (Topic 1: Marine Science Seminar); and three semester hours in geological sciences, chosen from courses that may be counted toward the requirements for a major in geological sciences.

13. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete the following courses:
   i. Biology 226L and 326R.
   j. Marine Science 320 and 120L.

14. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 126 semester hours.

Option IV: Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

5. Mathematics 408C or 408N and Statistics and Data Sciences 328M. Biochemistry 369 or 339F, and Chemistry 320M.

   a. Physics 301, 101L, 316, and 116L;
   c. Physics 303K, 103M, 303L, and 103N; or
   d. Physics 302K, 102M, 302L, and 102N.
Option VI: Neurobiology

7. Chemistry 301 or 301H, 302 or 302H, 201, and Chemistry 220C, 320M, 320N, and Biochemistry 369. Two upper-division biology laboratory courses chosen from: Biology 230L, 160L, and 361L. Biology 377-FRI/377/379H may be used for one of the laboratory courses if approved in advance by the microbiology faculty adviser.

8. Biology 311C, 311D, and 325 or Biology 315H and 325H; these courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper-division biology courses. Fifteen additional hours in upper-division biochemistry, biology, and chemistry.

9. Biology 206L. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

10. Two upper-division biology laboratory courses, one of which must be chosen from Biology 230L, 160L, and 361L. Biology 377-FRI/377/379H may be used for the second course if approved in advance by the microbiology faculty adviser. Biology 226L may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

11. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete the following courses: Biology 226L, 326R, 330, 360K, 366, 370, and 320 or 344.

12. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 126 semester hours.

Option V: Cell and Molecular Biology

5. Mathematics 408C or 408N and Statistics and Data Sciences 328M, Biochemistry 369 or 339F, and Chemistry 320M.

6. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following: Biology 320, 326R, 349, and 344 or 350M.


8. Either Biology 311C, 311D, and 325 or Biology 315H and 325H; these courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper-division biology courses. One additional upper-division laboratory course in biology. Biology 377-FRI/377/379H may be used if approved in advance by the cell and molecular biology faculty adviser.

9. At least four laboratory courses in biology, of which three must be upper division; Biology 377-FRI/377/379H may be used for the second course if approved in advance by the cell and molecular biology faculty adviser. Eighteen additional hours in upper-division biochemistry, biology, and chemistry.

10. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete the following courses: Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

d. Biology 320 and 344.

e. Biology 226L, 326R, 349, 370, and one of the following: 320L, 331L, 349L,

f. Biology 328, 365S, Neuroscience 365R.


12. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 126 semester hours.

Option VI: Neurobiology

6. Mathematics 408C and 408D, or 408N and 408S.

7. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following:

a. Physics 301, 101L, 316, and 116L;


c. Physics 303K, 103M, 303L, and 103N or

d. Physics 302K, 102M, 302L, and 102N.

8. Chemistry 301 or 301H, 302 or 302H, 201, 220C, 320M, and 320N.

9. Either Biology 311C, 311D, and 325 or Biology 315H and 325H; these courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper-division biology courses.
10. At least four laboratory courses in biology. The student must complete Biology 206L, and at least nine semester hours chosen from the following courses: Biology 320L, 325L, 331L, 371L, 478L, Electrical Engineering 374L, Neuroscience 365L, 366L, 478L, 366P, 366S.

11. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete the following courses:
   a. Biology 320, 344, 349, 370, and Neuroscience 365R.
   b. Six semester hours chosen from the following courses: Biology 359K, 365N, Neuroscience 365D, 365T, 365W, 366C, 366D, 466G, Psychology 353K.
   c. Six semester hours chosen from the following courses: Biology 328M or Statistics and Data Sciences 228M, Biology 321G, 337J, Chemistry 353 or 353M, 354, Biochemistry 369, 370, Computer Science 313E, 323E, 324E, 326E, 327E, Electrical Engineering 411, 313, 325, 438, 438K, 351K, 371K.
   d. Three additional semester hours chosen from the following courses: Computer Science 303E, Psychology 308, 332, or 353K.

12. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 126 semester hours.

Option VII: Plant Biology

5. Mathematics 408C or 408N and Statistics and Data Sciences 328M, Biology 328, 373, and 322 and 122L, 324 and 124L, or 463L.

6. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following: Two additional upper-division laboratory courses; Biology 377-FRI/377/379H may be used for one of the laboratory courses if approved in advance by the plant biology faculty adviser.
   a. Physics 301, 101L, 316, and 116L.
   b. Physics 317K, 117M, 317L, and 117N.
   c. Physics 303K, 103M, 303L, and 103N, or
   d. Physics 302K, 102M, 302L, and 102N.

7. Chemistry 301 or 301H, 302 or 302H, 204, 220C, 320M, and 320N. One of the following sequences:

8. Either Biology 311C, 311D, and 325 or Biology 315H and 325H; these courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper-division biology courses. Eighteen additional hours in upper-division biochemistry, biology, chemistry, and marine science.

9. Four biology laboratory courses, of which three must be upper-division; one of which must be chosen from Biology 206L or 208L; Biology 377-FRI/377/379H may be used for the second course if approved in advance by the plant biology faculty adviser. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

11. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete at least twenty-four hours of coursework chosen from the following: Biology 320, 320L, 322 and 122L, 323L, 324 and 124L, 327 and 127L, 328, 328D, 331L, 350M, 351, 352, 370, 472L, 373, 373L, 374 and 147L, 375, and Biochemistry 369.

12. Eleven additional semester hours of upper division coursework in the College of Natural Sciences or the Jackson School of Geosciences; a course may not be counted toward this requirement if it does not fulfill major requirements in the department that offers it.

13. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 126 semester hours.

Option VIII: Teaching

This option is designed to fulfill the course requirements for certification as a middle grades or secondary school science teacher in Texas; the student chooses either composite science certification with biology as the primary teaching field or life science certification. However, completion of the course requirements does not guarantee the student’s certification. Information about additional certification requirements is available from the UTech-Natural Sciences academic adviser.

5. Mathematics 408C and 408D, or 408N and 408S.

6. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following:
   a. Physics 301, 101L, 316, and 116L;
Courses used to satisfy this requirement may also be counted toward requirement 6.

5. Chemistry 301 or 301H, 302 or 302H, 204, and either Chemistry 320M, 320N, and 220C or 320M and Biochemistry 369.

6. Either Biology 314C, 311D, and 325 or 315H and 325H. These courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper-division biology courses.

7. At least four laboratory courses in biology. Three of these courses must be upper-division. The student must complete Biology 206L or 208L.


9. One of the following courses: Biology 320, 226L, 326R, 320, and either 324 and 124L or 322 and 122L, or 328 and 128L.

10. For composite science certification: Biochemistry 369 (to be counted as upper-division biology hours) and six semester hours of coursework in geological sciences. Courses intended for nonscience majors may not be counted toward this requirement. The remaining composite certification content requirements are met by the chemistry, physics, and science courses used to fulfill requirements 7 and 8 ac, 3d, 3ei, and 5.

11. Eighteen semester hours of professional development coursework consisting of:
   a. Curriculum and Instruction 650S.
   b. Curriculum and Instruction 365C or UTeach-Natural Sciences 350.
   c. Curriculum and Instruction 365D or UTeach-Natural Sciences 355.
   d. Curriculum and Instruction 365E or UTeach-Natural Sciences 360.
   e. UTeach-Natural Sciences 101, 110, and 170.

12. Students seeking middle grades certification must complete the following courses: Educational Psychology 363M (Topic 3: Adolescent Development), or Psychology 301 and 304; and Curriculum and Instruction 339E.

13. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 126 semester hours.

Option IX: Biology Honors

5. Breadth requirement: An honors mathematics course; Biology 315H and 325H; Chemistry 301H and 302H; and one of the following: an additional three-hour honors-designated course from a department in the College of Natural Sciences, computer science course; a three-hour honors-designated statistics course; Physics 301 and 101L; Physics 315 and 115L; or Physics 316 and 116L. 

6. An eight-semester-hour sequence of coursework in physics chosen from the following:
   a. Physics 301, 101L, 316, and 116L;
   b. Physics 317K, 117M, 317L, and 117N; or
   c. Physics 303K, 103M, 303L, and 103N

Coursed used to satisfy this requirement may also be counted toward requirement 6.
7. Biology 206L or 208L and Chemistry 204, 129K, 129L, 328M, and 328N.
8. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete Biology 320 or 344, 349, 370, Neuroscience 365R, and at least twelve additional semester hours of upper-division coursework in biology chosen from a list available in the student’s advising office. Six semester hours of this course may be counted toward the twelve semester hours of upper-division biology. Complete twenty-four hours chosen freely from the following lists:
   a. Biology 370.
9. Three upper-division laboratory courses in biology; Biology 377 or 379H may be used as only one of the three required upper-division laboratory courses. Courses used to fulfill this requirement may also be counted toward requirement 8.
10. 1. A section of Undergraduate Studies 302 or 303 that is approved by the departmental honors adviser.
11. 2. A section of Rhetoric and Writing 309S that is restricted to students in the Dean’s Scholars Honors Program.
12. 3. Two semesters of Biology 379H.
13. 4. Fifteen additional semester hours of coursework approved by the departmental honors adviser.
14. 5. Six semester hours of coursework in the College of Liberal Arts or the College of Fine Arts.
15. 6. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

Option X: Computational Biology
5. Mathematics 108C and 108D, or 408N, 408S, and 408M; Statistics and Data Sciences 329C or Mathematics 340L or 341; Mathematics 362K or Statistics and Data Sciences 321; and Mathematics 358K or 378K or Statistics and Data Sciences 348, 321 or 325H or 328M.
   a. Mathematics 301, 101L, 316, and 116L.
   b. Physics 317K, 117M, 317L, and 117N; or
   c. Physics 303K, 102M, 303L, and 103N.
8. Chemistry 301 or 301H, 302 or 302H, and 304: Six hours chosen freely from the following lists:
9. Either Biology 311C, 311D, and 325 or Biology 315H and 325H; these courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper-division biology courses. One additional laboratory course chosen from: Biology 320L, 122L, 323L, 124L, 128L, 129L, 325L, 328D, 230L, 331L, 340L, 446L.
11. In fulfilling requirement 4 of the Prescribed Work Common to All Options above, the student must complete Biology 321G, 370, and six additional hours of upper-division coursework in biology. Nine hours of additional upper-division biochemistry, biology, chemistry, marine science, mathematics, physics, and statistics and data sciences.

12. Four biology laboratory courses, of which three must be upper-division; Biology 321G and Statistics and Data Sciences 328M may fulfill two of these upper-division requirements. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

Option XI: Biology
10. Twelve additional hours in upper-division biochemistry, biology, chemistry, marine science, mathematics, statistics and data sciences, and physics.
11. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

Option XII: Genetics and Genomics
5. Biochemistry 369 or 339F.
6. Biology 325T, 349, 344, and 325L.
7. Chemistry 320M.
10. Biology 320L or 349L.
11. Twelve additional hours in upper-division biochemistry, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and statistics and data sciences.
12. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

Special Requirements

Students in all options must fulfill both the University's General Requirements for graduation and the college requirements. They must also earn a grade of at least C- in each mathematics and science course required for the degree, and a grade point average in these courses of at least 2.00. More information about grades and the grade point average is given in General Information.

To graduate and be recommended for certification, students who follow the teaching option must have a University grade point average of at least 2.50. They must earn a grade of at least C- in the supporting course in requirement 12, 9, and in each of the professional development courses listed in requirement 14, 11 and must pass the final teaching portfolio review; those seeking middle grades certification must also earn a grade of at least C- in each of the courses listed in requirement 14, 12. For information about the portfolio review and additional teacher certification requirements, students should consult the UTeach-Natural Sciences academic adviser.
To graduate under the honors option, students must remain in good standing in the Dean’s Scholars Honors Program, must submit an honors thesis approved by the departmental honors adviser, and must present their research in an approved public forum, such as the college’s annual Undergraduate Research Forum. More information about the Undergraduate Research Forum is available at https://cns.utexas.edu/.

**Order and Choice of Work**

Students begin the Bachelor of Science in Biology degree program with six hours of introductory biology for science majors (Biology 311C and 311D), as well as Chemistry 301 or 301H and 302 or 302H and Mathematics 408C, 408N, or 408R or 408N. The genetics course, Biology 325, is prerequisite to other upper-division biology courses. Students should consult with academic advisers about specific concentrations within biology, about appropriate courses in mathematics and physical sciences, and about course load and the balance between laboratory and nonlaboratory work. Most students select an option by the end of the second year and take at least twenty-one hours of upper-division coursework in the major in the third and fourth years.