

Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the [NIU Undergraduate Catalog](#). Information is valid through **November 2015**.

Courses Needed Prior to Transfer (if student is transferring to NIU with general education requirements complete):

Biological sciences is a math and chemistry based curriculum. Therefore, students minimally need to have completed College Algebra (Math 110) and Introduction of Chemistry (CHEM 110) prior to transfer.

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:

Students who hope to complete the Biology BS degree in 4 semesters at NIU will additionally need to have completed the following at community college:

General Chemistry I and II (CHEM 210/212 and CHEM 211/213)
Fundamentals of Biology I and II (BIOS 208/210 and BIOS 209/211)
Trigonometry (Math 155)

About the Department

The Department of Biological Sciences at NIU provides undergraduate students with a comprehensive program leading to B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. There are 24 faculty members, 48 graduate students, and approximately 600 undergraduate majors. Biology is a diverse and rapidly expanding area of study that addresses issues relevant to careers in healthcare, agriculture, industry, and the environment. Biologists are responsible for new discoveries in medicine and molecular biology, increasing crop yields and pest resistance, defining the ecological relationships that maintain our planet, and examining the origins and evolution of species, to name but a few.

Faculty:

The faculty specialization within the department represent the diversity of the field of biology and include undergraduate emphases in pre-professional studies, cell and molecular biotechnology, microbiology, and biodiversity-environmental biology. Faculty members and their students have a distinguished publication record and successfully compete for national funding to support their research programs. The faculty includes six recognized presidential research professors and several who have received university-wide recognition and awards for undergraduate teaching and engagement.

Engaged Learning Opportunities:

- The department is housed in Montgomery Hall with over 36 research labs, 10 teaching labs, live animal quarters, greenhouses, herbarium collections, three computer laboratories, a research microscopy facility, a DNA sequencing facility, and a graphic arts studio. The department is also associated with the Plant Molecular Biology Center, has access to four natural areas for ecological instruction and research, and maintains collaborative efforts with Argonne National

Laboratory, Fermi National Laboratory, Field Museum of Natural History, Morton Arboretum, Brookfield Zoo, regional medical schools and John G. Shedd Aquarium. The department has study abroad programs available in Oxford England and Madagascar every year, and our students gain internships throughout the country in diverse settings.

- A large and diverse variety of internships are available to undergraduate students. These vary from biomedical programs, to biotech companies, conservation organizations, zoos, and government agencies. The department is committed to helping you find a program that suits your goals and interests.
- A vast array of research opportunities are available to undergraduate students and it is a practical experience that the department encourages for all BIOS majors. Students are matched with a faculty mentor and trained in the research skills required for that particular field of study. Virtually all the BIOS faculty have undergraduates participating in the research being conducted by that lab. The department also has an annual student research symposium that highlights student research.

Student Organizations:

The **Pre-Professional Association** brings together students who have an interest in the doctoral biomedical professions including medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, optometry, and podiatry. Healthcare professionals, admissions officers, and career specialists engage with the students throughout the academic year.

The **Phi Sigma Biological Honor Society** is composed of students with an interest in research. The group sponsors an annual student research symposium, the honors convocation, seminars, and promotes science through the annual STEMfest.

The **Committee for the Protection of Wildlife** is a student group devoted to conservation efforts. They work with the local restoration specialists and promote environmental awareness within the NIU community.

Career Information:

The departmental undergraduate curriculum prepares undergraduate students for employment in government, education, and industry; for advanced graduate study in a biological discipline; and for entrance into professional schools such as medicine, dentistry, optometry, podiatry, veterinary medicine, and pharmacy. Recent BS-degree students have gained employment in forensics, biotechnology, environmental organizations, governmental agencies, and as research technicians. With additional course work and student teaching, students may also become certified to teach biology and general science at the middle school and high school levels.

For More Information

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