

First-Year Course Recommendations - Biology

Full-time students typically choose a combination of these courses - totaling 12-16 units per semester.

	Course	Course Title	Course Advice	Units	Semester	
					1st	2nd
Major	BIOL 101	Plant Biology	These intense courses (along with BIOL 103) are required for Biology majors and meet the “one year of biology” requirement for medical schools. Depending on how strong your high school preparation was in Biology, you might want to take BIOL 100 first. Though BIOL 102 has a Course Advisory of BIOL 101, it is okay to take BIOL 102 first. Note: both courses have Prerequisites of MATH 107 or 111(Intermediate Algebra) and Skills Advisories of Eligibility for ENGL 110.	5		
	BIOL 102	Animal Biology		5		
	CHEM 155	General Chemistry I	These intense courses are required for Biology majors and meet the “one year of General Chemistry” requirement for medical schools. Note: CHEM 101 or a year of high school chemistry is prerequisite as is MATH 107 or 111 (Intermediate Algebra). Depending on how strong your high school preparation was in Chemistry, taking CHEM 101 might be advised. If you choose not to take CHEM 101, you will need to submit a Prerequisite Challenge A Form Admissions and Records before you register for CHEM 155.	5		
	CHEM 156	General Chemistry II		5		
General Education	English	See: Which English Courses Do I Need?	English is a foundational skill necessary for success in all college courses. Note: most of SBCC courses have Skills Advisories of Eligibility for ENGL 110. Take whichever level of English you assessed into.	3-5		
	Math	See: Understanding Your Math Course Placements	Biology majors require calculus. Most campuses accept MATH 130 , but others require MATH 150 and 160 . Check Assist.org to see what your desired school requires. Start with whatever math course you assessed into and work your way to calculus.	3-5		
	Arts and Humanities	See: IGETC Area 3A & 3B ; SBCC GE Pattern Area C	Often Biology majors finish these two areas of general education once they transfer, but if you plan to transfer to a UC you will need one course from IGETC Area 3 or Area 4 to meet the admission requirement. Foreign language courses and general psychology (PSY 100) can be good choices for students considering graduate schools in health.	3		
	Social Sciences	See: IGETC Area 4 ; SBCC GE Pattern Area B		3		
* Electives	PD 100	College Success	PD 100 is designed to teach study skills for academic success in college. It introduces resources available at SBCC and allows students to explore major and transfer goals. PD 110 is designed to help students explore major and career options while also gaining interview, communication, and resume writing skills. Note: both courses transfer to UC’s and CSU’s but UC’s only count units for one (so we recommend you only take one).	3		
	PD 110	Career Planning				
	PE	Physical Education Activities	You can transfer up to 4 units of PE activity courses to the UC system and more to CSU campuses. They can be a great way to manage stress and maintain physical health. Many of these courses are graded.	1		
	Any course of interest		Taking courses you are interested in can be one of the best ways to explore major and career options. SBCC offers many incredible courses in areas outside of major and general education that are still desired by the UC and CSU systems.	1-5		

*Note: Biology majors typically take 60+ units of major and general education courses prior to transfer. Depending on your timeline, you might not have time to take electives.

Click these links for additional advice about preparing for [Chiropractic](#); [Dental](#); [Medical](#); [Physical Therapy](#) and [Physical Assistant](#) schools.