FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

Biological Science

Fall 2024

Cal State Fullerton
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Amybeth Cohen
Professor and Chair
WELCOME!

We are glad you have decided to major in Biology, and we look forward to helping you reach your goals!
GOALS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

Important Information and Resources

Overview of the Biology major

Discuss and answer questions on your fall classes

Helpful hints about enrolling for Fall 2024

Overview of University requirements and the Biology major

Opportunities available to Biology majors

Final words of wisdom

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ORIENTATION

http://www.fullerton.edu/orientation/new-student/index.php

http://www.fullerton.edu/nsm/new_student/index.php

FRESHMEN REGISTRATION STARTS TODAY - YOUR ORIENTATION DATE
GOALS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

- Important Information and Resources
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- Discuss and answer questions on your fall classes
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- Overview of University requirements and the Biology major
- Opportunities available to Biology majors
- Final words of wisdom

IMPORTANT NSM RESOURCES

Biology Department Website
http://www.fullerton.edu/biology

Biology Advising Help
mail: bioladvising@fullerton.edu

NSM Student Success Center
https://www.fullerton.edu/nsmssc/

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematic (NSM)
http://www.fullerton.edu/nsm
Here is a 4-year graduation plan based on completion of 30 units per year.

- 12 units is the minimum for full time enrollment status
- You can take up to 18 units per semester
- There is a limit to the number of times you can repeat a course
- You cannot repeat a course that you passed (earned a C)
- Some classes are available during summer and winter session

For many of you, your GPA will be important for the next step in achieving your educational and career goals.

**Remember** – *In the long run it may be better to take fewer units and earn better grades than to overload yourself and end up with a lower GPA!*

This is especially true if you are working or caring for a family member.
At least 21 units UD Bio

Upper division core (BIOL 325), Physiology, & Courses in a Concentration (300-400-level):
1) Cell & Developmental Biology
2) Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
3) Marine Biology
4) Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
5) Plant Biology

Students must complete 120 units to graduate. Some students may require additional units of free electives to reach 120 or more units.

**One course in GE area C2, C3, D1, D3, or E must double-count to fulfill GE area Z.
Most Freshmen are required to take **ONE** of these courses:
- An Oral Communication course (GE A.1; HCOM 100) **OR**
- A Written Communication course (GE A.2; ENGL 101)

**PLAN ON TAKING ONE OF THESE CLASSES IN FALL AND THE OTHER ONE IN SPRING – DO NOT TAKE BOTH IN THE SAME SEMESTER.**

For GE Advising, contact the NSM Student Success Team.  
[https://www.fullerton.edu/nsmssc/advising/index.html](https://www.fullerton.edu/nsmssc/advising/index.html)
You may be automatically enrolled in CNSM 101 *Think Like Einstein*

- CNSM 101 is a special course designed for beginning math and science majors
- The course counts as your GE Area A.3 Critical Thinking class
- **CNSM 101 meets MWF from 8:00am to 8:50am**
- *If you are not enrolled into CNSM 101 you will need to take another GE Area A.3 course*
- *If you are in the Honors Program, you should not be enrolled into CNSM 101*
All Freshmen are required to take a MATH class

- You should be working on the ALEKS program
  - ALEKS was made available to you
- Most BIOL majors typically enroll in MATH 115 or 130
- You must complete ALEKS in order to enroll in MATH 130
- If you have AP credit for Calculus, speak with an advisor who can work with you to determine which MATH course is right for you
- With AP Calculus credit, you may choose to enroll in CHEM 115 or CHEM 120A – enrollment July 10
- We DO NOT recommend that you enroll in MATH 125
You will be automatically enrolled in a BIOLOGY course

- For Fall 2024 most incoming freshman will be enrolled in either BIOL 151 or BIOL 152
ANY COMBINATION OF THE FOUR TYPES OF COURSES WILL WORK

You have been sent a recommended class schedule - check your CSUF email account

**FALL 2024**
- **14 units**

- **MATH 115 or MATH 130**
  - 4 units

- **ENGL 101 or HCOM 100**
  - 3 units

- **CNSM 101 or ANOTHER GE**
  - 3 units

- **BIOL 151 (4 units) or BIOL 152 (4 units)**

If you have AP Calc Credit, enroll in CHEM 115 or Chem 120A if you pass the placement exam*

*https://www.fullerton.edu/chemistry/students/chemistry_placement_exam.php
Fall 2024 Course Plan

GE A.1 or A.2 (3 units)
CNSM 101 or GE (3 units)
MATH 115 or 130 (4 units)
BIOL 151 or 152 (4 units)

IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL HELP – ADVISING

Reminder of the summer and into the fall

Please contact bioladvising@fullerton.edu
NAVIGATING ONLINE TOOLS

Links to instructions and videos on how to use the online tools to register for classes

HOW TO ACCESS TITAN ONLINE

https://csuf.screenstepslive.com/s/peoplesoft/m/70023/l/754364-how-do-i-access-titan-online

HOW TO ADD A CLASS

https://csuf.screenstepslive.com/s/peoplesoft/m/70025/l/1454310-adding-a-class?token=Lu_YdUfr5m-46iBapCREStjYcVqhV-n8

HOW TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES

http://records.fullerton.edu/registration/index.php
HELPFUL HINTS

• Scroll through all the available sections. Many courses have multiple sections.

• Adding a class to your Shopping Cart DOES NOT mean you are enrolled or that your spot is saved in the class. SELECT ENROLL AND COMPLETE ALL STEPS TO BE SURE YOU ARE IN THE CLASS.

• ALWAYS CHOOSE GRADED OPTION. Credit/No Credit courses will not count towards your degree.

• Be flexible in scheduling. You may be limited in the options of class sections with open seats.

• SWAP DON’T DROP! Swapping allows you to try to change a class without losing your seat. Only Drop a class if you know for sure you do not want to be enrolled. Once you drop a class you may not be able to re-enroll.
TIME MANAGEMENT = SUCCESS IN COLLEGE

Try to be strategic when you plan your schedule
• Try to choose class times when you know you will be alert and ready to learn (in the case of CNSM 101 you don’t get a choice - sorry!)
• Try to give yourself time between classes
• Pay attention to whether a class is in person or virtual
• Remember that back-to-back classes might mean back-to-back exams or finals
• Build study-time into your schedule

Be as flexible as possible!

You will likely NOT get all your first choices of days and times for classes.

JUST BECAUSE A CLASS IS IN YOUR CART DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE ENROLLED!

HINTS ABOUT ENROLLING INTO YOUR CLASSES

Think about when you do your best learning as you make your schedule!
OVERVIEW OF UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS AND THE BIOLOGY MAJOR

Your CSUF degree is a combination of General Education and BIOL Majors’ courses

• University Requirements
  • 120 Units
  • General Education (GE)
  • GE Areas A-F and Overlay Z (Cultural Diversity)
    [Area B is met by courses you take for the Major]
  • American Government
  • Upper-Division Writing Requirement
  • Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA

• Major Requirements
  • 40 units
  • Core Courses (BIOL 151, 152, 251, 252, 253L, 254L & 325)
  • Supporting Courses – Math, Chemistry, & Physics
  • Upper division Electives = Concentration
  • BIOL Capstone course
  • All Majors courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher
OVERVIEW OF UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS AND THE BIOLOGY MAJOR

General Education gives you a broader perspective on the world.

General Education (GE) gives you the opportunity to explore and learn about the wider world. Use GE to build on existing interests or develop new ones. GE prepares you to meet the challenges of the future by providing you with a breadth of knowledge and skills.

FRESHMEN REGISTRATION BEGINS ON TODAY
THERE ARE LOTS OF CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS ON CAMPUS

Look here for ways to get involved!
https://www.fullerton.edu/sll/involvement/clubs/

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO BIOLOGY MAJORS

Your time at CSUF should be about more than the classes you take!
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BIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATES CAN BE INVOLVED IN ORIGINAL LAB OR FIELD RESEARCH

You can be part of a special program or simply work with a faculty member!

http://www.fullerton.edu/biology/undergrad/research.php
Don’t be afraid of failure – that’s how you learn, and we are here to help!

Think of being in college as having a full-time job

Create a balance between school, home, and your personal life

Be open to new ideas and adventures

Take advantage of campus resources
Ask for help if you need it!

College ≠ High School

SOME FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM
Your college experience is not a race!
But even if it were – the only person you are competing against is yourself! You can’t fall behind!

Resist the urge to judge your success by what may appear to be the success of others

This is real life. There will be set-backs and challenges, but with persistence you will achieve your goals!
YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS
QUESTIONS

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