

# Major Planning Guide:

## Biology

### What can I do with a degree in biology?

Biology is a popular major for students planning a variety of careers, including careers in medicine, laboratory science, or conservation. Students who plan to apply to medical school, dental school, pharmacy school, or veterinary school often major in biology, although it is not required.

### Related Majors

General Biology	Physiology
Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation	Neurobiology
Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology	Marine Biology
Plant Biology	Microbiology

### Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in biology in Washington?

Many universities offer biology as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> to find biology programs in Washington state or around the country.

### How do I prepare to major in biology?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that biology is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in biology, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

#### Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E to take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- Keep in mind that some of these careers, particularly in medicine, advanced research, or teaching, will require graduate or medical school after receiving a bachelor's degree.
- Almost all universities offer a biology major, but the concentrations they offer vary. If you want to study marine biology, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that focus.
- Students planning to study biology will need to take several sequences of science courses, for example, three-course sequences of biology and chemistry. It is recommended to take the full series at the same college before transferring.
- Our Transfer Center in BE1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

## Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in biology often earn the Associate of Science (AS-T) – Option #1 degree. Advisors can help students understand how to best approach the math and science requirements necessary to complete this degree. You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AS-T—Option #1 ([blue sheet](#)) in BE 1102 lobby.

## Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in biology at a university usually take courses in biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, math (usually calculus and statistics), as well as general education requirements, to prepare to transfer.

English/Communication	Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL& 101	<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL& 211	<input type="checkbox"/> CHEM& 161	<input type="checkbox"/> Math& 151
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL& 102 or CMST	<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL& 212	<input type="checkbox"/> CHEM& 162	<input type="checkbox"/> Math& 152
	<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL& 213	<input type="checkbox"/> CHEM& 163	<input type="checkbox"/> Math& 163

**Please note: this is not a complete list of prerequisites. You should consult with an advisor at Seattle Central to make sure you take the appropriate courses to be prepared to enter the major.**

\*Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.

## What are my next steps?

- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in biology you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. (*If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113*).
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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