



**BIOLOGY FRESHMAN  
MEETING**



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**Biology**



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Biology

**HOWDY CLASS OF '28**



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# CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

NAVIGATING YOUR TIME AT TAMU (HANDOUT)

DEPARTMENT GRADE REQUIREMENTS

SCIENCE PEER LEARNING CENTER

HONORS AND UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

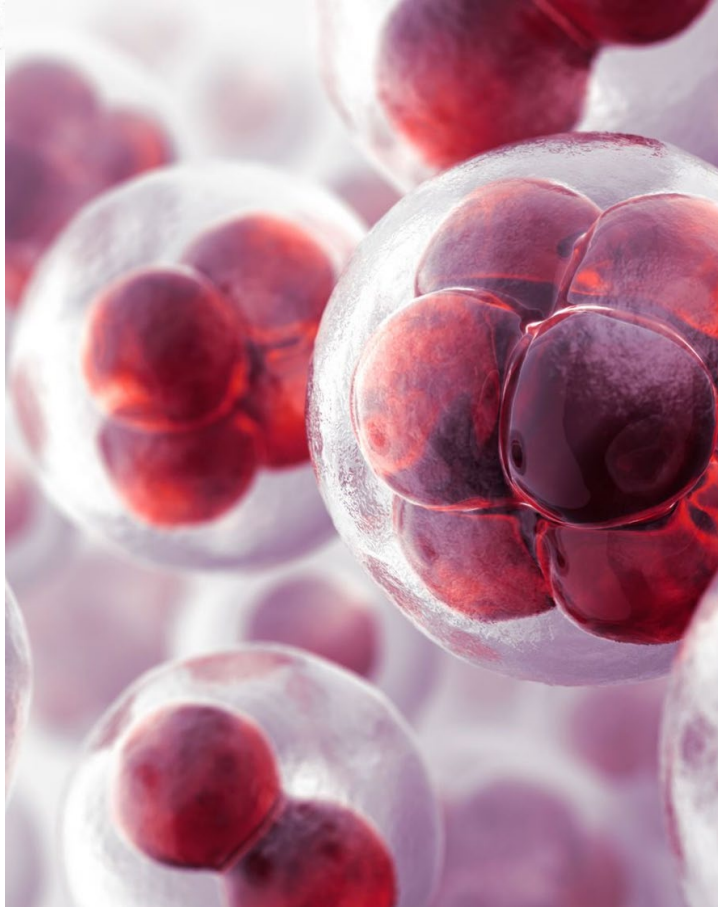
SCHEDULING AND REGISTRATION

COMPLETING YOUR HANDOUT/WEBSITES

REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR REGISTRATION



# BIOLOGY DEGREE PLANS



**\*All Biology Degrees are 120 credit hours\***

**First two years common science requirements in all degree plans.**

**B.A. Biology** - General Biology with a Mandatory Minor

**B.S. Biology** - General Biology Degree.

**B.S. Microbiology** - Focused on prokaryotic biology.

**B.S. Molecular Cell** - Focused on cell, molecular and developmental biology.

**B.S. Neuroscience-Molecular and Cellular** - Focused on molecular neurobiology and behavioral/ cognitive functions.

**B.S. Zoology** - Focused on chordate and invertebrate anatomy along with physiology.

# FOUNDATION COURSE COMPLETION

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- Specific courses must be completed before starting your 5<sup>th</sup> full semester (indicated by **bold face** and \*\* on the degree plans) for entry to upper-division BIOL elective courses.
- **Foundation courses:**
  - **First Year Biology:** BIOL111 & BIOL112
  - **Second Year Biology:** BIOL213 & BIOL214 (NRSC take NRSC/VIBS277 instead of BIOL214)
  - **Introductory Chemistry:** CHEM119 & CHEM120
  - **Organic Chemistry:** CHEM257 & CHEM258
  - **Calculus:** MATH147 (required) & MATH148 or STAT201, or equivalents



# DEPARTMENT GRADE REQUIREMENTS

- A grade of “C” or better in BIOL111 and BIOL112 is required.
- Only 1 “D” is allowed in the major field provided the major and overall GPA remains 2.0+. This means all BIOL or NRSC classes (excluding 111/112).
- D’s are allowed outside the major field of study provided overall GPA remains 2.0+.



# UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM & IMPORTANT DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

All students entering Texas A&M University must complete the core curriculum and other university standard requirements. For a complete list of courses used to satisfy the specific areas, please refer to <https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/>

## Foundational component areas and required credit hours

The table below contains information about the number of credit hours for each foundational component area students are required to complete in order to meet the university's core curriculum requirements.

Foundation Component Area	SCH (Credit Hours)
Communication	6
Mathematics	6
Life and Physical Sciences	9
Language, Philosophy, & Culture	3
Creative Arts	3
American History	6
Government/Political Science	6
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3

- **INTERNATIONAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY and CULTURAL DISCOURSE** <https://catalog.tamu.edu>
- **RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT**  
A minimum of **36** hours of 300-400 level course work must be completed at A&M to obtain a baccalaureate degree.  
12 of the 36 hours must be within your major field of study.
- **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSES**  
Two separate Writing Intensive (WI) courses are required in your major field of study. Options are listed on degree plans.
- **ELECTIVE RESTRICTIONS**  
Non-majors courses and courses below the minimum level required in other areas of the degree program. See your degree plan.  
  
*Some may need to be specific for ICD, CD or 300-400 level to meet Residency.  
(i.e. PBSI107 counts as ICD and Social & Behavioral; DCED201 counts as CD and General Elective.)*





# TESTING AND MATH ASSESSMENT

- Credit by Examination
  - AP, IB, SAT II and DANTES score chart available at <https://testing.tamu.edu/credits>
- CLEP Testing
  - Contact Testing Services at 979-845-0532 or check <https://testing.tamu.edu>
- Foreign Language Placement Tests
  - <https://newaggie.tamu.edu> (NSC Requirements & Testing)

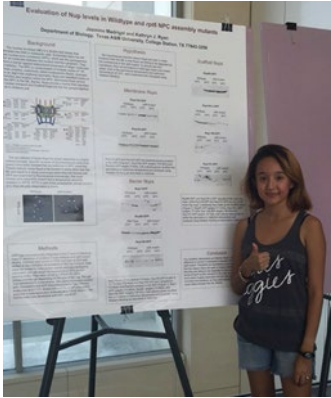
## Math Placement Exam

- You should have already completed the MPE and know your score. If you need to retake the MPE, you may do so twice more, with a two-week wait in between attempts. Practice exams are available to take up to two times.
- A score a 22 is required to enroll in **MATH 147**. Exception: if you have credit for pre-calculus (MATH150)
- A score of 21 or less we recommend you enroll in **STAT 201**. Students should retake the MPE for a score of at least 22 and can then take MATH 147
- Consider the **Personalized Pre-calculus Program** through the MATH department to help you brush up on skills before retaking the MPE. Go to [ppp.tamu.edu](http://ppp.tamu.edu) for available session dates. Cost is \$225.



# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Research leading to new knowledge is a critical part of Texas A&M's mission. All students are encouraged to take advantage of this rich research environment by engaging in independent research



- Be the first person to discover something!
- Expand and apply concepts learned in the classroom
- Gain technical, critical thinking, and communication skills
- Work closely with faculty and other researchers who can provide career advice and strong letters of recommendation
- Research can be incorporated into your degree plan.



For more information: Dr. Kathy Ryan, Biology Undergraduate Research Coordinator, [kryan@bio.tamu.edu](mailto:kryan@bio.tamu.edu)

Biology Undergraduate Research Page [www.bio.tamu.edu](http://www.bio.tamu.edu)  
(under undergraduate programs)



# HONORS IN BIOLOGY

## Three ways to earn Honors distinctions upon graduation

- **Latin Honors:** Summa, magna, and cum laude, graduation GPA > 3.5; must have minimum 60 TAMU hours
- **University Honors:** Campus-wide, freshman living learning community
- **Biology Honors:** Focused on Biology coursework and research



## Biology Honors Program

- Smaller honors sections of freshman and sophomore classes
- Greater expectations for reading, discussion, writing, analysis, presentation, and independent initiative
- At least one year of undergraduate research

# HONORS IN BIOLOGY

An intellectually-challenging curriculum placing emphasis on student-faculty contact, active student engagement, research and communication

- Must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA
- Must complete required Honors courses at lower and upper levels
- Should start undergraduate research by the end of sophomore year
- Must complete research writing capstone

**Dr. Kathy Ryan, Director of Biology Honors**  
**biohonors@bio.tamu.edu**



**I will be in Butler Hall Room 009 today between 11:30 and 1:30 with current Honors students**

- If you submitted our online form, drop by to receive instructions for enrolling in Honors classes
- If you want to join you must meet minimum requirements (composite 1350 SAT or 30 ACT). Space is limited. Drop by with your questions.
- If you don't meet the requirements or are not sure you can still join during your freshman year



# AGGIETEACH



## LEARN



Double your career potential by obtaining a Texas middle and high school teaching certificate as you earn your degree.

## TEACH

# 100%

of our students who want to teach find jobs upon graduation!



## IMPACT



### Next Step

Visit the website or email [aggiateach-arts@tamu.edu](mailto:aggiateach-arts@tamu.edu)



INTERESTED IN EXPANDING YOUR CAREER OPTIONS?  
**THINK ABOUT TEACHING!**

[@aggiateach.tamu.edu](https://aggiateach.tamu.edu)

  
**aggieTEACH**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Double your career potential by obtaining a Texas Secondary Teaching Certificate as you earn your degree.

**LEARN to TEACH and make an IMPACT with aggieTEACH!**

**NEXT STEPS > REGISTER FOR ARSC 201 AND VISIT [AGGIETEACH.TAMU.EDU](https://aggiateach.tamu.edu)**



# SAMPLE SCHEDULES FOR FIRST SEMESTER

- **Registration HOLDS** = (ex: bacterial meningitis, TSI compliance, tuition rate selection. Online orientation completion). Check Registration Readiness items in My Dashboard.
- **Howdy Checklist** = Accept terms of use and confirm location.
- **Field of study restriction** = majors only section. CHEM119 and PBSI107 common
- **Honors restriction** = take only if admitted to Honors program or if minimum requirements are met. HNR is in the title of the course. Section numbers usually start with a 2 (ex: CHEM119-201)
- Some classes fill up quickly. Core curriculum classes are generally flexible and may be taken in any semester.
- **Student Attribute error/Prerequisite & Test Score error** = Accept Lab Safety Acknowledgement for any lab course (do each semester); Accept AP credits if it is a prerequisite for your desired course (ex: MATH151 credit to enroll in MATH148 or MATH152).

## Ex 1: No AP or Dual Credit (14-15 hrs)

BIOL111 4 hours

CHEM119 4 hours

MATH147 or STAT201 4 or 3 hours

Core Curriculum Elective 3 hours

OR

## Ex 2: BIOL AP or Dual Credit (13-14 hrs)

CHEM119 4 hours

MATH147 or STAT201 4 or 3 hours

Core Curriculum Electives 6 hours



# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PLANNER



ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PLAN ON HOWDY ONCE THEY COMPLETE 30 CREDIT HOURS. THE PLAN MUST INCLUDE COURSEWORK FOR EACH UPCOMING SEMESTER THROUGH GRADUATION.



IT IS IMPORTANT TO SUBMIT THIS PLAN IN A TIMELY MANNER TO AVOID A HOLD BEING PLACED ON YOUR ACCOUNT BY THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE. THE HOLD CANNOT BE REMOVED UNTIL THE PLAN IS APPROVED AND MAY IMPEDE A STUDENT'S ABILITY TO REGISTER.



FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT SUBMITTING THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PLANNER, VISIT THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT WEBSITE AT [WWW.BIO.TAMU.EDU](http://WWW.BIO.TAMU.EDU) OR CONTACT AN UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR.



# END OF MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

## The registration process:

1. Q & A now until 11:45am.
2. Work on Aggie Schedule Builder prior to your 2:30 start time.
3. Registration will begin promptly at **2:30 PM** in the Student Computing Center (2<sup>nd</sup> floor front open area). Advisors and student workers will be available for help and questions.
4. Make sure before registration to have your net ID and password set up, check for holds, and remember to complete **Registration Action Items** (Terms of Use, Location Update, Lab Safety Acknowledgement) as well as selecting your Tuition Rate Code.
5. You may purchase or reserve textbooks at a bookstore or online.





# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE






TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Biology

## CONTACT US

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 [advising@bio.tamu.edu](mailto:advising@bio.tamu.edu)

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