

BIOLOGY PRE-MAJOR PROGRESS POLICY, PILOT STUDY, ESTABLISHMENT OF

The Faculty Senate recommends the establishment of a pilot study to assess the creation of a policy for evaluating progress in the Biology pre-major that will occur immediately upon passage of this bill. The policy will be evaluated after three years to determine impact on both the department and students. Each year, the Biology department will submit to APC a summary of their use of the pilot study.

Pilot Study Information:

The Department of Biology defines progress in the major as being regularly enrolled in courses defined as part of the pre-major, as identified below:

A degree in the Biological Sciences requires the following lower division courses: BIO 1, BIO 2, CHEM 1A, CHEM 1B, CHEM 20 (or 24), PHYS 5A, PHYS 5B, MATH 26A, and STAT 1; some concentrations have additional requirements

Students cannot readily enter all of these classes; most have a math requirement and/or a diagnostic that determines entry. The only “true” introductory course is BIO 1.

Viewing these introductory courses as “stages”, depending on student readiness, one could determine progress in the major by ensuring students are moving through the various stages of preparation, as described below.

THUS, to progress in the major, students would be expected to make minimal movement (taking one of these courses at least once a year) through the stages of the pre-major as follows (highlighted courses are part of the pre-major):

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
BIO 1	CHEM 1A (or CHEM 4 if they fail diagnostic)	BIO 2 (pre-req. CHEM 1A) CHEM 1A or CHEM 1B	Apply to major
Preparatory Math if needed otherwise Stat 1 or Math 26A	STAT 1 or MATH 26 Or PHYS 5A	Remaining Math or PHYS 5A or 5B (both are required)	

In the above description, Stage 1 is true introduction; Stage 2 requires more math readiness; Stage 3 includes pre-requisite courses that are in the earlier stages.

Students who consistently do not make progress in the major (pre-major), will have their status changed to “Undeclared.” To determine this, the Department of Biology will follow explicit procedures before changing the status of a student. A student can return to the Biology pre-major after showing progress in the major.

Carried.