

# BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY: CONCENTRATION IN MARINE BIOLOGY AND LIMNOLOGY

## Impaction

All Biology concentrations are impacted, which means that students must first enroll as pre-biology majors. Upon successful completion (C- or better) of two courses in the major, students may apply to become a Biology major. Both new transfer and on-campus students wishing to change majors are required to submit an additional departmental application. See the departmental website [biology.sfsu.edu](http://biology.sfsu.edu) (<http://biology.sfsu.edu>) for supplemental program application and deadlines.

## General Information and Requirements

- Candidates entering the bachelor's programs in biology should have completed three years of high school mathematics and one year of high school chemistry to allow completion of the curriculum in a timely fashion (see Undergraduate Admission Requirements ([bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-admissions/application-procedures/#UAR](http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-admissions/application-procedures/#UAR))).
- All major coursework must be completed with letter grades (CR/NC is not acceptable).
- A minimum grade point average of 2.0 in all coursework is required to receive a degree in these programs.
- To remain enrolled in a biology course, students must be prepared to provide copies of transcripts demonstrating completion of prerequisite courses with a grade of C- or better.
- At least 12 units in biology must be completed at SF State.
- Early in the first semester, and at regular intervals thereafter, students must consult with a biology advisor to plan a program of study. For the most current advising information, go to [biology.sfsu.edu](http://biology.sfsu.edu) (<http://biology.sfsu.edu>).

## Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

Students must earn a C or better in a GWAR course to satisfy the requirement.

Biology majors have flexibility for which GWAR course they can take to meet their requirement, as long as the prerequisites for the course have been completed.

In general,

- Cell & Molecular Biology majors should take BIOL 351GW;
- Microbiology majors should take BIOL 402GW;
- Botany, Ecology, and Zoology majors may choose between BIOL 475GW, BIOL 478GW or BIOL 529GW;
- Marine Biology majors may choose between BIOL 570GW or BIOL 631GW; and
- Physiology majors may choose between BIOL 613GW or BIOL 631GW.
- General Biology majors may take any BIOL GWAR class.

See also the Department of Biology home page for GWAR in Biology: [biology.sfsu.edu/content/gwar](http://biology.sfsu.edu/content/gwar) (<http://biology.sfsu.edu/content/gwar>) or contact a departmental advisor for further information.

The department does not permit multiple concentrations within the biology degree program. All of the curricula require preliminary work in physics and chemistry because many important biological concepts are based squarely upon principles in the physical sciences. Also, each curriculum includes upper division work in the biological sciences so that students will receive reasonable breadth and depth in their degree program. Because of the sequential arrangement of courses students are urged to consult the descriptions for the prerequisites of all their courses.

Although course electives are listed for most of the majors, new electives are always being added to various programs. Therefore, we highly recommend that students seek advisement prior to enrolling in elective courses in their major.

## Concentration in Marine Biology and Limnology

Undergraduates may elect a general emphasis in marine invertebrate zoology, marine vertebrate zoology, marine botany, marine microbiology, or limnology. Graduate work may also be general or follow specific strengths such as ecology, evolution and systematics, functional morphology, physiology, behavior, estuarine or freshwater biology.

## Biology (B.S.): Concentration in Marine Biology and Limnology – 66–68 units

### Lower Division Requirements (34–35 units)

Code	Title	Units
BIOL 230	Introductory Biology I	5
BIOL 240	Introductory Biology II	5
CHEM 115	General Chemistry I: Essential Concepts of Chemistry	5
CHEM 130	General Organic Chemistry	3
Select 16-17 units from the following:		16-17
CHEM 215 & CHEM 216	General Chemistry II: Quantitative Applications of Chemistry Concepts and General Chemistry II Laboratory: Quantitative Applications of Chemistry Concepts	
MATH 226	Calculus I	
MATH 227	Calculus II	
PHYS 111 & PHYS 112	General Physics I and General Physics I Laboratory	
PHYS 121 & PHYS 122	General Physics II and General Physics II Laboratory	

### Upper Division Requirements (32–33 units)

Code	Title	Units
BIOL 337	Evolution	3
BIOL 355	Genetics	3
BIOL 458	Biometry	4
BIOL 525 or BIOL 630	Plant Physiology (select on advisement) or Animal Physiology	3
Select 3-5 units on advisement from the following:		3-5
BIOL 534	Wetland Ecology	
BIOL 580	Limnology	

BIOL 582	Biological Oceanography
BIOL 585 & BIOL 586	Marine Ecology and Marine Ecology Laboratory

### Upper Division Electives

Select 14–17 upper division units from alternatives not used in fulfilling the requirements listed above or from the list below. Upon advisement, students may also use other upper division biology courses or appropriate graduate courses as electives.

Code	Title	Units
BIOL 502	Biology of the Algae	3
BIOL 526	Plant Molecular Physiology Laboratory	2
BIOL 532	Restoration Ecology	3
BIOL 555	Marine Invertebrate Zoology	4
BIOL 556	Natural History of Marine Invertebrates	4
BIOL 570GW	Biology of Fishes - GVAR	4
BIOL 575	Fisheries Biology	3
BIOL 584	Marine Microbial Ecology Laboratory	1
BIOL 585	Marine Ecology	3
BIOL 586	Marine Ecology Laboratory	2
BIOL 631GW	Animal Physiology Laboratory - GVAR	4
CHEM 680	Chemical Oceanography	3
ERTH 642	Watershed Assessment and Restoration	4
ERTH 434	Coastal Processes	3

Any Marine Science Course between MSCI 312 and MSCI 344 without duplicating courses taken at SF State

**Note:** A minimum of 40 upper division units must be completed for the degree (including upper division units required for the major, general education, electives, etc.). A student can complete this major yet not attain the necessary number of upper division units required for graduation. In this case, additional upper division courses will be needed to reach the required total.

### General Education Requirements

Requirement	Course Level	Units	Area Designation
Oral Communication	LD	3	A1
Written English Communication I	LD	3	A2
Critical Thinking	LD	3	A3
Physical Science	LD	3	B1
Life Science	LD	3	B2
Lab Science	LD	1	B3
Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning	LD	3	B4
Arts	LD	3	C1
Humanities	LD	3	C2
Arts or Humanities	LD	3	C1 or C2
Social Sciences	LD	3	D1
Social Sciences: US History	LD	3	D2

Social Sciences: US & Government	LD	3	D3
Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (LLD)	LD	3	E
Physical and/or Life Science	UD	3	UD-B
Arts and/or Humanities	UD	3	UD-C
Social Sciences	UD	3	UD-D

#### SF State Studies

Courses certified as meeting the SF State Studies requirements may be upper or lower division in General Education (GE), a major or minor, or an elective.

American Ethnic and Racial Minorities	LD or UD	3	AERM
Environmental Sustainability	LD or UD	3	ES
Global Perspectives	LD or UD	3	GP
Social Justice	LD or UD	3	SJ

Note: LD = Lower-Division; UD = Upper-Division.

### First-Time Student Roadmap (4 Year)

Find the correct roadmap (A, B, C, or D):

1. Select the row that matches your English Course choice for A2.\*
2. Select the column that matches your QR Category (found at your student center under Math Alert).
3. Click the Roadmap that lines up with your row and column.

For example, if you are taking ENG 104 as your first English course and your student center math alert says you are QR Category III, you should choose Roadmap D.

Pathway	QR Cat I/II	QR Cat III/IV
ENG 114	Roadmap A (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/biology/bs-biology-concentration-marine-biology-limnology/roadmap-i-ii-eng)	Roadmap C (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/biology/bs-biology-concentration-marine-biology-limnology/roadmap-iii-iv-eng)
ENG 104/ENG 105	Roadmap B (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/biology/bs-biology-concentration-marine-biology-limnology/roadmap-i-ii-stretch)	Roadmap D (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/biology/bs-biology-concentration-marine-biology-limnology/roadmap-iii-iv-stretch)

\*Composition for Multilingual Students: If taking ENG 209 as your first English course, choose the ENG 114 row. If taking ENG 204 for your first English course, choose the ENG 104/ENG 105 row.

## Transfer Student Roadmap (2 year)

For students with an AS-T in **Biology**. [This roadmap opens in a new tab](http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/biology/bs-biology-concentration-marine-biology-limnology/adt-roadmap) (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/biology/bs-biology-concentration-marine-biology-limnology/adt-roadmap).

## This degree program is an approved pathway ("similar" major) for students earning the ADT in Biology

California legislation SB 1440 (2009) mandated the creation of the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) to be awarded by the California Community Colleges. Two types of ADTs are awarded: Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) and Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T).

Note: no specific degree is required for admission as an upper-division student. However, the ADT includes specific guarantees related to admission and graduation and is designed to clarify the transfer process and strengthen lower-division preparation for the major.

An ADT totals 60 units and in most cases includes completion of all lower-division General Education requirements and at least 18 units in a specific major. (The Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science AS-T degrees defer 3 units in lower-division GE area C and 3 units in lower division GE area D until after transfer.) Students pursuing an ADT are guaranteed admission to the CSU if minimum eligibility requirements are met, though not necessarily to the CSU campus of primary choice.

Upon verification that the ADT has been awarded prior to matriculation at SF State, students are guaranteed B.A. or B.S. completion in 60 units if pursuing a "similar" major after transfer. Determinations about "similar" majors at SF State are made by faculty in the discipline.

Degree completion in 60 units cannot be guaranteed when a student simultaneously pursues an additional major, a minor, certificate, or credential.

A sample advising roadmap for students who have earned an ADT and continue in a "similar" major at SF State is available on the Roadmaps tab on the degree requirements page for the major. The roadmap displays:

- How many lower-division units required for the major have been completed upon entry based on the award of a specific ADT;
- Which lower-division requirements are considered complete upon entry based on the award of a specific ADT;
- How to complete the remaining 60 units for the degree in four semesters.

Students who have earned an ADT should seek advising in the major department during the first semester of attendance.

## General Advising Information for Transfer Students

1. Before transfer, complete as many lower-division requirements or electives for this major as possible.
2. The following courses are not required for admission but are required for graduation. Students are strongly encouraged to complete these

units before transfer; doing so will provide more flexibility in course selection after transfer.

- a course in U.S. History
- a course in U.S. & California Government

For information about satisfying the requirements described in (1) and (2) above at a California Community College (CCC), please visit <http://www.assist.org>. Check any geographically accessible CCCs; sometimes options include more than one college. Use ASSIST to determine:

- Which courses at a CCC satisfy any lower-division major requirements for this major;
- Which courses at a CCC satisfy CSU GE, US History, and US & CA Government.

Remedial courses are not transferable and do not apply to the minimum 60 units/90 quarters required for admission.

Additional units for courses that are repeated do not apply to the minimum 60 units required for upper-division transfer (for example, if a course was not passed on the first attempt or was taken to earn a better grade).

Before leaving the last California Community College of attendance, obtain a summary of completion of lower-division General Education units (IGETC or CSU GE Breadth). This is often referred to as a GE certification worksheet. SF State does not require delivery of this certification to Admissions, but students should retain this document for verifying degree progress after transfer.

Credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or College-Level Examination Program courses: AP/IB/CLEP credit is not automatically transferred from the previous institution. Units are transferred only when an official score report is delivered to SF State. Credit is based on the academic year during which exams were taken. Refer to the University Bulletin in effect during the year of AP/IB/CLEP examination(s) for details regarding the award of credit for AP/IB/CLEP.

Students pursuing majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines often defer 6-9 units of lower-division general education in Areas C and D until after transfer to focus on preparation courses for the major. This advice does not apply to students pursuing associate degree completion before transfer.

## Transferring From Institutions Other Than CCCs or CSUs

Review SF State's lower-division General Education requirements. Note that, as described below, the four basic skills courses required for admission meet A1, A2, A3, and B4 in the SF State GE pattern. Courses that fulfill the remaining areas of SF State's lower-division GE pattern are available at most two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Of the four required basic skills courses, a course in critical thinking (GE A3) may not be widely offered outside the CCC and CSU systems. Students should attempt to identify and take an appropriate course no later than the term of application to the CSU. To review more information about the A3 requirement, please visit <http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-education/general-education/lower-division/#AAEL>.

Waiting until after transfer to take a single course at SF State that meets both US and CA/local government requirements may be an appropriate option, particularly if transferring from outside of California.

## All Students Must Meet the Transfer Eligibility Requirements Outlined Below for Admission.

For more information, visit the Undergraduate Admissions section ([bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-admissions](http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-admissions)).

- Complete 60 or more transferable semester units or 90 or more quarter units
- Earn a college grade point average of 2.0 or better in all transferable courses. Non-local area residents may be held to a higher GPA standard.
- Be in good standing at the last college or university attended
- Complete 30-semester units (45-quarter units) of general education, including four basic skills courses:
  - a. One course in oral communication (same as CSU GE Area A1)
  - b. One course in written composition (same as CSU GE Area A2)
  - c. One course in critical thinking (same as CSU GE Area A3)
  - d. One course in mathematics or quantitative reasoning (same as CSU GE Area B4)
- The four basic skills courses and a minimum of 60 transferable semester units (90-quarter units) must be completed by the spring semester prior to fall admission, or by the fall semester prior to spring admission. Earn a "C-" or better grade in each basic skills course.