



FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Biology is the study of life, and integrative biology emphasizes the study and understanding of living organisms at different levels of organization, from molecular biology to biosphere ecology. We teach biology students core information that serves as a foundation for advanced study and professional training. This basic knowledge includes concepts central to our understanding of molecular biology, as well as the relationship between structure and function, and the genetic mechanisms of inheritance. In addition, biology students are educated in cell biology and genetics, as well as the technological breakthroughs that have led to discoveries in these fields. They learn how organisms adapt to diverse environments and about energy flow and nutrient cycles through ecosystems, worldwide biodiversity and how ecological function can be altered by human impacts.

The Organisms to Ecosystems Track caters to students interested in pursuing careers in conservation biology, wildlife biology, ecology, evolution and organismal biology. Students in this track may pursue careers at state and federal land agencies (NPS, USFS, BLM, etc.), natural history museums and botanical gardens, zoos and aquariums, the veterinary field, organismal and ecology research, environmental education, environmental consulting, nonprofit advocacy and law, and graduate programs. Consider pairing this major with the Geographic Information Science Certificate.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas.advising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CLAS Advising website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Biology Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advising Contact Information](#)

Visit the program website [here](#)

Science Building (SI) 2071

303-315-7600

For questions about admission requirements, transfer policies, applying, and the transfer process contact:

Office of Admissions

admissions@ucdenver.edu

Visit the Admissions website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 1005

303-315-2601

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 30 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 credit hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

The following program requirements are based on degree requirements for the current Catalog year at CU Denver and are subject to change. Students are responsible for completing degree requirements based on the Catalog year for which they are admitted.

Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Biology Organisms and Ecosystems B.S. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 36 BIOL credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours in ancillary coursework.
3. Students must complete a minimum of 18 upper division (3000- level and above) BIOL credit hours.
4. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to major requirements. Grades in courses that fulfill requirements for the major (including electives, required classes, and ancillary classes) are calculated in the major GPA.
5. Students must complete a minimum of 18 upper division (3000-level and above) BIOL credit hours with CU Denver faculty and at least 6 credits must be at 4000-level or higher.
6. Upper division BIOL courses more than ten years old will not count automatically to the Major, but can be evaluated individually for their current relevance to the degree program through a petition process with the Department of Integrative Biology Curriculum Committee. Approval for courses older than ten years is not guaranteed so students may be required to update their knowledge by taking additional courses when past courses are outdated.
7. Undergraduate students may count up to six credit hours of independent study or internship (any combination of BIOL 3840 Independent Study, BIOL 3939 Internship, BIOL 4840 Independent Study, BIOL 4880 Directed Research) toward the upper-division Biology electives requirement in the major.



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COURSEWORK THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The following is a “bucket” of requirements students can complete prior to transferring to CU Denver, including equivalent Colorado Community College System (CCCS) courses. To determine the equivalencies of courses to be completed at non-CU Denver institutions, students can visit <https://transferology.com/school/ucdenver>. **It is critical students connect with a CU Denver academic advisor to ensure planned courses will transfer and apply to CU Denver degree requirements.** All non-CU Denver coursework must be completed with a C- or better to be eligible for transfer.

Students interested in completing an Associate (A.A. or A.S.) Degree or a [Colorado Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement or Degree with Designation \(DWD\)](#) must work with their community/junior college academic advisor to create an academic plan that accounts for all degree or transfer articulation agreement requirements. Colorado Community College Students may also explore the option to complete [Reverse Transfer](#) at CU Denver.

CU Denver Requirements	CU Denver Credits	CCCS Equivalent Courses & Notes	CCCS Credits
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40		
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3	ENG 1021	
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3	ENG 1022	
Mathematics	3 - 4	MAT 1340 or 1420 or 1440 <i>recommended</i> or GT-MA1	
Arts	3	GT-AH	
Humanities	3	GT-AH or GT-HI	
Behavioral Sciences	3 - 4	GT-SS	
Social Sciences	3 - 4	GT-SS or GT-HI*	
Natural/Physical Science with lab	4 - 5	BIO 1111 or GT-SC1	
Natural/Physical Science without lab or Math	3 - 5	BIO 1112 or GT-SC2 or GT-MA1 (<i>except the course used for Core Math</i>) or GT-SC1	
International Perspectives	3	Additional GT-AH, HI, SS* (<i>see note below</i>)	
Cultural Diversity	3	<i>To be completed at CU Denver. This requirement must be completed with an upper-division course and CCCS courses will not apply.</i>	---
BIOL Major Courses	17		
BIOL 2020 & 2021 Molecules to Cells (Gen Bio) with lab	4	BIO 1111 <i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab</i>	
BIOL 2010 & 2011 Organisms to Ecosystems (Gen Bio) with lab	4	BIO 1112 <i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab</i>	
CHEM 2031 & 2038 General Chemistry I with lab	4	CHE 1111 <i>Course can fulfill CU Denver CLAS Natural/Physical Science with lab</i>	
CHEM 2061 & 2068 General Chemistry II with lab	5	CHE 1112	
Minimum Applicable Transfer Credit Hours Recommended:	60	<i>Students completing less than 60 applicable transfer credits will have additional credits to complete at CU Denver. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Students needing general elective credits should consult a CU Denver CLAS Academic Advisor to plan for additional programs.</i>	

***The applicability of Guaranteed Transfer (GT Pathways) courses to specific CU Denver Core Curriculum requirements requires completion of a block of five courses: two GT-AH courses; one GT-HI course; one GT-SS course; and one additional GT-AH, GT-HI, or GT-SS course.**



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SAMPLE PLAN – COURSEWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT CU DENVER

Based on successful completion of 60 applicable transfer credit hours and the complete “bucket” of requirements outlined above, students would have the following remaining to complete at CU Denver. At CU Denver, students must tailor this plan based on their chosen Biology track, the evaluation of previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, individual preferences related to course load, summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, or add-on programs such as certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees.

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
BIOL 3411 ^{PE} (Fall Only) & BIOL 3413 ^{PE} (Fall Only)	5
MATH 1401 ^{PE} or BIOL 3762 ^{PE} or MATH 4830 ^{PE}	3-4
BIOL 3832 ^{PE} or BIOL 3124 ^{PE} (Fall Only)	3
ENGL 4175 ^{PE} , ENGL 3154 ^{PE} , ENGL 4280 ^{PE} , ENGL 4180 ^{PE} or COMM 4550 ^{PE}	3
Total Credit Hours	14-15

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
BIOL 3350 ^{PE} (Spring Only)	3
BIOL 3445 ^{PE} (Spring Only)	3
BIOL Upper-Division Course ^{PE}	3
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
General Elective	4
Total Credit Hours	16

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
BIOL 4000-Level Course ^{PE}	3
BIOL Upper-Division Course ^{PE}	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	4
Total Credit Hours	16

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
BIOL 4000-Level Course ^{PE}	3
BIOL Upper-Division Lab or Experiential Course ^{PE} (Consider Internship/Directed Research)	1-2
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	4
Total Credit Hours	14-15

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended