

**Updated March 29, 2023**

**Dear Biology Students~**

**As you may have heard or will hear soon, the UNM Biology department is planning to change the curriculum for your major or minor program.**

**We are planning to have live in-person information sessions (with Pizza!) in the department on this date:**

**April 3 2-4 PM CAST 55**

**Biology Advisement will not be answering in-depth questions via email. For individualized degree planning, as always, please make an appointment with your advisor at [LoboAchieve.unm.edu](http://LoboAchieve.unm.edu) or by calling 505-277-4621.**

**We understand that many of you will have questions about how this will impact your degree plan, and we are hoping to provide some answers to some of the most frequent questions. Please review the following:**

**Will I get credit for the courses I have already taken?**

**Yes, the department has organized this new course sequence to still give credit for previously earned credit hours. Please see the chart included here.**

If you have completed BIOL 2110C (and keep your current catalog year), sign up for BIOL 302C. If you change your catalog year, you will sign up for BIOL 2102.

If you have completed BIOL 2110C & BIOL 2410C (and keep your current catalog year), sign up for BIOL 310C OR BIOL 300C (but not both). If you change your catalog year, you will sign up for BIOL 2102.

If you have completed BIOL 2110C, BIOL2410C & BIOL 303/303L for any catalog year, sign up for BIOL 304C

If you have completed BIOL 2110C, BIOL 2410C, BIOL 303/303L & BIOL 304/304L for any catalog year, proceed with your upper division requirements per your catalog year.

**Will this extend my degree plan?**

Not every student will be updated to the new curriculum. Thus, it is very important for you to attend the info sessions available and also talk to your faculty and advisors directly.

If you do choose to or are advised to update to the new curriculum, then no—this will not necessarily extend your degree plan, as you will be receiving credit for the biology courses you have already taken. If you update to the new curriculum, you will, however, be taking more Biology courses for your upper division, which means that more Biology courses will go into your total 120 hours for your bachelor's degree.

The UNM College of Arts & Sciences requires that all students seeking a bachelor's degree complete 48 hours of upper division (300-400 level) coursework.

Prior to Fall 2023 catalog, a BS in Biology requires 37 hours of BIOL and 24 hours of supportive coursework with approximately 28 of those being 300-400-level. This leaves students with a ~20 remainder of 300-400-level electives (to be taken in BIOL or in an external department). For a BA in Biology the numbers are similar, 32 hours of Biology and 24 hours of supportive coursework, but with a required minor, the addition will vary (please speak to your advisor to calculate).

The new curriculum for Fall 2023-onward will require BIOL students to complete 49 hours for a BS in Biology and 45 hours for a BA in Biology. The BA in Biology will no longer require a minor. The supportive coursework will be 20-21 lower division hours only. In this curriculum there will be only 7 hours of lower division Biology required. Depending on the student's choice of the new pre-approved elective hours (which can be upper or lower division), it is possible for a student to receive up to ~42 hours of upper division from the major in Biology itself.

If you have a 2<sup>nd</sup> major or minor, it is possible you will extend your degree plan, however, we need to look at each student individually.

Thus—according to our calculations, it is unlikely that the new curriculum will extend your degree program if you have not already declared a second major or minor. If you have planned to incorporate a second major or minor, please talk to your advisor.

### **Do I have to 'opt-in'?**

Mostly, yes, because the current courses will be discontinued, but you do not have to update your catalog year. However, if you are in the upper division portion of your coursework (400-levels or 300-level labs), you will only need to complete the requirements required by your catalog year.

Please discuss with your advisor whether or not you should update your catalog year.

**My advisor is recommending that I update my catalog year, what does this mean?**

The university updates its catalog yearly. This is to add or remove courses, alter degrees, add, or remove certain degree plans. Your “catalog year” is your “contract” with UNM. Everything required for your degree (majors or minors) is the catalog year you begin with and what you are required to fulfill to complete your plan of study.

In some cases, for instance, if you have started CHEM 1215/1215L but NOT Biology courses, it might be helpful for you to change your catalog year, because you will be starting only in the new curriculum.

If you have only a few BIOL courses, Biology Advisement would be happy to look at it with you to determine what is best in your situation. You will need to schedule an appointment through LoboAchieve or by calling 505-277-4621.

**I have a concentration or am interested in a concentration; how does this affect me?**

If you have a concentration (BIOT, Conservation, EEOB) we will be working each semester to ensure that you have the substitutions needed for those requirements.

If you do not have a concentration—we do not suggest you add one now. The new curriculum is designed to automatically build a concentration into your plan.

Current concentrations will be discontinued in the new curriculum.

**I have to replace credit for either the lab or lecture portion of BIOL 303/303L or BIOL 304/304L, will I be able to do a grade replacement?**

No, unfortunately, you will not be able to do a grade replacement as these classes will no longer be offered unless you have already taken these classes and received a C or higher to make the replacement viable.

Students who need to repeat BIOL 2110C will take: BIOL 2101, BIOL 2102, & BIOL 2103L.

Students who need to repeat BIOL 2410C will take: BIOL 2102 if you change to the new catalog year, or BIOL 302C if you keep your original catalog year.

Students who need to repeat any portion of BIOL 303 & 303L will take: BIOL 300C OR BIOL 310C (but not both).

Students who need to repeat any portion of BIOL 304 & 304L will take: BIOL 304C.

### **What if I hope to do other grade replacements?**

We suggest that you wait until the end of your degree to process grade replacements as it may mislead your financial aid GPA. However, if you have already completed the repeated course, we can still process a grade replacement.

### **I am Pre-Med or Pre-Health or Pre-Veterinary and would like to know if the new courses will be accepted as pre-requisites for my program applications?**

As of right now, to our knowledge the UNM Medical School will prefer to see the current courses (BIOL 2110C or BIOL2410C) OR the new 300-level courses for Cell & Molecular (301C) and Genetics (302C).

However, the current pre-requisites for those new 300-level courses will be the new Biology 7-hours core.

For schools other than UNM and, in fact, at UNM as well—we recommend talking to your admissions advisors for the programs you are interested in.

You can ask the UNM BIOL faculty for their course syllabi to share with your prospective institutions.

### **What if I have already taken supportive coursework?**

If you keep your catalog year prior to Fall 2023, those classes will still be required.

If you update to the new curriculum Fall 2023 onward, it is likely those classes will remain supporting coursework. If you update your catalog year and have already taken or plan to take CHEM 301/303L this will count only as an upper division elective.

Substitutions **may** be allowed for MATH 1440 or MATH 1522 in place of MATH 1350 which is the new supporting course for the mathematics category. -- **THIS IS TBD**

Physics courses should be taken tandem with your catalog requirements. Note that in the new curriculum the survey courses are available for both BS and BA tracks.

### **I have not started any BIOL classes yet. What class do I take next semester?**

Your first classes will be the new core classes BIOL 2101/2102/2103L.

### **How can I see the pre-requisites for the new courses?**

**For Fall 23, please talk to your advisors regarding the pre-requisites. For overrides, you will be reaching out directly to the faculty.**

### **Will I still get credit for CHEM 301/303L?**

**Yes, Organic Chemistry 1 will count as a required elective as long as it does not also count toward a CHEM minor or 2<sup>nd</sup> Major.**

### **Does X count as a biology-related required elective course?**

**This is the list of courses current as of March 29, 2023**

**Notice that some lower division BIOL classes are included here. Both Organic Chemistry levels are included here as well as BIOC 423.**

**Important: If you have a Chemistry minor (or a minor/ 2<sup>nd</sup> major in one of these other subjects), you are not allowed to use courses toward this requirement for the BIOL major and your 2<sup>nd</sup> major or minor. You will need to select additional elective courses or drop the other degree aspect.**

Section 7 Requirement: Complete 2 Additional Elective (3-4 credits each)

\*Please note, if you have declared a minor or a 2<sup>nd</sup> major, you cannot share credits between a major and a minor.

BIOL 2305 (cannot take if you have taken BIOL 351/352L or plan to), 2210/2210L, 2225/2225L

CHEM 301, 302, 421, 422, 315, 423, 424, 426, 433

ANTH 2135, 2190C, 338, 350, 357, 360, 362, 363, 390L

BIOC 423-464

BIOM 507-515

CS 105L, 108L, 152L, 251L, 365

ECON 2125, 335, 342, 343

ENVS 1130L, 320L, 322L, 323L, 430L

EPS 352, 365, 405L, 410, 415, 439

PH 101, 102, 201, 311

PHRM 305, 476

PSYC 342, 344, 345

**What courses will be offered in Summer 2023?**

**On the schedule as of March 27, 2023—SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

BIOL 2110C (4)  
BIOL 303 (3)  
BIOL 303L (1)  
BIOL 304 (3)  
BIOL 304L (1)  
BIOL 351 (3)  
BIOL 352L (1)  
BIOL 2210 (3)  
BIOL 2210L (1)  
BIOL 2225 (3)  
BIOL 2225L (1)  
BIOL 419 Southwest Field Ecology (3)  
BIOL 402 Molecular Neurobiology (1)

**What CORE courses will be offered in Fall 2023?**

**On the schedule as of March 27, 2023—SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

For Fall 23-- 302C, 310C, 351/352L

For Spring 24-- 301C, 302C, 300C, 310, 351/352L, 304C

If you need Plant and Animal (BIOL 304/304L) in Fall 23—instead you will take it in Spring 24 and your Fall 23 BIOL courses will be BIOL 351/352L and/or any BIOL 400-level course.

If you need Cell & Molecular (BIOL 2110C) in Fall 23—instead you will take BIOL 302C and take BIOL 301C in the Spring 24.

\*If you are graduating in Fall 23 and are not able to get one of these required courses—PLEASE talk to Advisement about a substitute for your requirements.\*