The Department of Botany provides an introduction to the living world: the diversity of its organisms; its historical origins through evolution; its principles of structure, function, and ecology; and its interactions, relationships, and effects on the nonliving world. Botany is the science of plants, algae, fungi, and bacteria—all living organisms except animals. Green plants and algae provide the photosynthetic energy for fueling all other life on earth and drive global water and carbon cycles. Fungi and bacteria are the fundamental recyclers of the earth.

The study of botany provides a broad background in the principles of modern biology and gives a solid foundation for careers in environmental studies, conservation biology, ecology, systematics, evolution, genetics, physiology, biotechnology, agriculture, and horticulture. Jobs requiring such preparation include teaching in secondary schools and colleges, research and development in industry and medicine, stewardship of our natural world through private and governmental programs, and research and teaching in academia.

**HOW TO GET IN**

Prospective Botany majors should consult with the general undergraduate botany advisor by the beginning of the junior year to outline a course of study appropriate to the student’s needs. Major Declaration may occur by meeting with the undergraduate advisor in the major.

To be accepted as a major in Botany, a student must have a grade point average of 2.500 for all science courses taken prior to declaration.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.

**General Education**

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

**COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)**

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

**BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**Mathematics**

- Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

**Language**

- Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
- Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

**LS Breadth**

- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

**Liberal Arts and Science Coursework**

- Complete at least 108 credits.

**Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work**

- Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.

**Major**

- Declare and complete at least one major.

**Total Credits**

- Complete at least 120 credits.

**UW-Madison Experience**

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work

- 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
- 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

MATH, CHEMISTRY, AND PHYSICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 301</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 324</td>
<td>Introductory Applied Statistics for Engineers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 371</td>
<td>Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Chemistry (One of the following): 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 103 &amp; CHEM 104</td>
<td>General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II</td>
<td>5-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 115 &amp; CHEM 116</td>
<td>Chemical Principles I and Chemical Principles II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 109</td>
<td>Advanced General Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organic Chemistry 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 341</td>
<td>Elementary Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CHEM 343</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physics (One course from the following): 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 115</td>
<td>Energy and Climate (preferred)</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 103</td>
<td>General Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 104</td>
<td>General Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 201</td>
<td>General Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 202</td>
<td>General Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 207</td>
<td>General Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 208</td>
<td>General Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 247</td>
<td>A Modern Introduction to Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 248</td>
<td>A Modern Introduction to Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 249</td>
<td>A Modern Introduction to Physics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 14-20

BIOLOGY AND BOTANY REQUIREMENTS

30 credits from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOTANY/</td>
<td>Introductory Biology (Complete one option):</td>
<td>5-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOLOGY/</td>
<td>Option A, Recommended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>General Botany 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOTANY/</td>
<td>Option B: Introductory Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOLOGY/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZOOLOGY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>Introductory Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Introductory Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Option C: BIOCORE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOCORE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>381</td>
<td>Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382</td>
<td>Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>383</td>
<td>Cellular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>384</td>
<td>Cellular Biology Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>485</td>
<td>Principles of Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Botany Distribution - Five courses, to include at least one course in these areas:

- Cell, Molecular, Physiology (1 course required):
  - BOTANY 300 Plant Anatomy
    or BOTANY 500 Plant Physiology
- Ecology (1 course required):
  - BOTANY/ F&W ECOL. 455 The Vegetation of Wisconsin
    or BOTANY/ F&W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 460 General Ecology
- Genetics, Evolution (1 course required):
  - BOTANY/ ANTHRO/ ZOOLOGY 410 Evolutionary Biology
  - AGRONOMY/ HORT 338 Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
  - GENETICS 466 Principles of Genetics 2
  - GENETICS 467 General Genetics 1
  - GENETICS 468 General Genetics 2
- Diversity
  - BOTANY 305 Plant Morphology and Evolution
  - BOTANY 330 Algae
  - Fungi
  - BOTANY/ PL PATH 332
  - BOTANY 400 Plant Systematics
  - BOTANY 401 Vascular Flora of Wisconsin

Optionally, 1 of the 5 required courses may come from this list, or students may take a second course from any area listed above:

- BOTANY/ GEOG 338 Environmental Biogeography
- BOTANY/ AGRONOMY/ HORT 339 Plant Biotechnology: Principles and Techniques I
- BOTANY/ AGRONOMY/ SOIL SCI 370 Grassland Ecology
- BOTANY/ F&W ECOL. 402 Dendrology: Woody Plant Identification and Ecology
- BOTANY 403 Field Collections and Identification
**REQUIREMENTS**

**HONORS IN THE MAJOR IN BOTANY:**

**REQUIREMENTS**

To earn Honors in the Major in Botany, students must satisfy the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- 3.300 University GPA
- 3.400 GPA in all BOTANY and major courses
- Complete 12 Honors credits from coursework listed in the “Botany Distribution” requirements or from Intermediate/Advanced Honors coursework in Biocore
- Conduct Senior Honors Thesis research in BOTANY 681 & BOTANY 682 for a total of 6 credits

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**FOOTNOTES**

1. STAT 371, MATH 211, or MATH 221 are strongly recommended for students preparing for graduate school, as these usually are required for entry into post-undergraduate programs.
2. CHEM 109 is the best option for chemistry if only one course is to be taken. However, for students who are preparing for graduate school, and depending on their post graduate goals (CHEM 103 & CHEM 104 OR CHEM 115 & CHEM 116) is strongly recommended as some graduate programs may require a sequence of organic chemistry courses.
3. CHEM 341 is the best option for organic chemistry if only one course is to be taken. However, for students who are preparing for graduate school, the three-course organic chemistry sequence (CHEM 343, CHEM 344, & CHEM 345) is strongly recommended instead of CHEM 341, as some graduate programs may require a sequence of organic chemistry courses.
4. PHYSICS 115 is the best choice if one course is to be taken. It is recommended that two semesters of PHYSICS be taken (PHYSICS 103-PHYSICS 104 or PHYSICS 201-PHYSICS 202 or PHYSICS 207-PHYSICS 208).
5. In addition to BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130, ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 101 and/or ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 102 will count towards 30 credits of Botany major.
6. Completion of the BIOCORE sequence also satisfies the Genetics, Evolution area (BIOCORE 381 & BIOCORE 382 & BIOCORE 383 & BIOCORE 384 & BIOCORE 485).
7. Students nearing completion of the major should seek out research opportunities with their advisor or faculty supervisor, and register for their project at the end of the junior year.
8. BOTANY 300-BOTANY 699 are considered upper-level in the major.
9. Excluding BOTANY 681 and BOTANY 682.
LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Acquire and demonstrate foundational understanding of the basic properties of plant life from the subcellular to the ecosystem level of organization.
2. Acquire and demonstrate basic understanding in chemistry, physics, and mathematics to interpret biological phenomena.
3. Acquire and demonstrate detailed knowledge in at least five of these core areas of plant biology: Genetics, Physiology, Structural biology, Ecology, Systematics, Evolution, Cryptogamic biology.
4. Explore these core areas in the context of the laboratory and/or the field.
5. Engage in plant biology research (to include algae, photosynthetic bacteria, and fungi): develop hypotheses, acquire scientific information, and interpret results in the context of the historical scientific literature in one or more specialized botanical subdisciplines.
6. Develop an appreciation of communicating scientific information, especially in written form.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

This plan shown focuses on completing major requirements early enough to be able to pursue advanced interests later. It also includes additional research experiences beyond the minimum, since many students find it helpful to begin research earlier than their senior year. Students interested in graduate school would be advised to take additional courses in the biological, physical, and/or data science fields. Students seeking honors in the Major might want to consult the sample 4-year plans provided by the Biocore (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/biology-core-curriculum/biology-core-curriculum-honors-certificate/) program

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General chemistry (choose one)$^1$</td>
<td>4-5 CHEM 104 (or Elective)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 103 or 109$^1$</td>
<td>Introductory Biology First Semester (choose one)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications A (complete during your first year)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BOTANY/ BIOLOGY 130 or BIOLOGY 151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 221$^2$</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Humanities Breadth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 341$^3$</td>
<td>3 PHYSICS 115</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Biology First Semester (choose one)</td>
<td>5 STAT 371</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOLOGY/ ZOOLOGY 101 &amp; BIOLOGY/ ZOOLOGY 102</td>
<td>BOTANY/AMER IND/ ANTHRO 474 (or an alternate Ethnic Studies course)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOLOGY/BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 152</td>
<td>Botany Breadth (I/A)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm B (if not taking BIOLOGY 152) or Elective</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 120

1. Chemistry sequence CHEM 103 & CHEM 104 recommended.
2. Or a different course in mathematics guided by placement testing.
3. Organic Chemistry full sequence (CHEM 343, CHEM 344, & CHEM 345) recommended, especially for students interested in molecular biology or biochemistry.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING

Students can find information about declaring the major at declaration and advising (https://botany.wisc.edu/undergraduate-study/declaration-and-advising/).
The Department of Botany encourages our majors to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after arriving on campus. We partner with SuccessWorks in the College of Letters & Science. L&S graduates are in high demand by employers and graduate programs. It is important to us that our students are career ready at the time of graduation, and we are committed to your success.

**L&S CAREER RESOURCES**

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (https://successworks.wisc.edu/) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/)
- Enroll in a Career Course (https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
  - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
  - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/)
  - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students’ lives (https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/)

**PEOPLE**

**Faculty:** See Botany (https://botany.wisc.edu/botany-faculty/).