

ZOOLOGY, BS

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

Natural Science & Wellness Complete both:

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

Social & Behavioral Science 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

Total Credits 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree 120 degree credits.

Residency Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

Quality of Work Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

Math Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.

English Language If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Communication Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation
Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
Language	the third unit of a language other than English
Mathematics	Complete two courses of 3+ credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level in MATH, COMP SCI, or STAT subjects. A maximum of one course in each of COMP SCI and STAT subjects counts toward this requirement.
L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences	Complete 12 credits, which must include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 credits with the Biological Science designation, and 6 credits with the Physical Science designation.
Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced Coursework	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	at least 120 credits
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 credits in residence, overall, and 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 & PHYSICS

Code	Title	Credits
Math—complete one:		4-10
MATH 112 & MATH 113	College Algebra and Trigonometry	
MATH 114	Precalculus	
MATH 211	Survey of Calculus I	
Chemistry—complete one:		5-9

CHEM 103 & CHEM 104	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II	
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	
Physics—complete one:		8-10
PHYSICS 103 & PHYSICS 104	General Physics and General Physics	
PHYSICS 201 & PHYSICS 202	General Physics and General Physics	
PHYSICS 207 & PHYSICS 208	General Physics and General Physics	
Total Credits		17-29

BIOLOGY AND ZOOLOGY

Complete 30 credits from the sections below.

Introductory Biology

Code	Title	Credits
Option 1: Introductory Biology		10
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY/ BOTANY 151 & ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY/ BOTANY 152	Introductory Biology and Introductory Biology	
Option 2: BIOCORE—complete both:		10
BIOCORE 381 & BIOCORE 382	Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics and Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics Laboratory	
BIOCORE 383 & BIOCORE 384	Cellular Biology and Cellular Biology Laboratory	
Option 3: Animal Biology¹		5
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101 & ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 102	Animal Biology and Animal Biology Laboratory	
Total Credits		5-10

¹ BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130 is recommended, but not required for students pursuing Option 3 (Animal Biology).

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ZOOLOGY 299	Directed Studies in Zoology	
ZOOLOGY 300	Invertebrate Biology and Evolution	
ZOOLOGY 301	Invertebrate Biology and Evolution Lab	
ZOOLOGY/ ENTOM 302	Introduction to Entomology	
ZOOLOGY 303	Aquatic Invertebrate Biology	
ZOOLOGY 304	Marine Biology	
ZOOLOGY/ ENVIR ST 315	Limnology—Conservation of Aquatic Resources	
ZOOLOGY 316	Laboratory for Limnology—Conservation of Aquatic Resources	
ZOOLOGY 320	Field Marine Biology	
ZOOLOGY 335	Human/Animal Relationships: Biological and Philosophical Issues	

ZOOLOGY/ ENTOM/M M & I/ PATH-BIO 350	Parasitology	ZOOLOGY 611	Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology
ZOOLOGY/ ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL 360	Extinction of Species	ZOOLOGY 612	Comparative Physiology Laboratory
ZOOLOGY 370	General Molecular Biology	ZOOLOGY/ ANTHRO/ PSYCH 619	Biology of Mind
ZOOLOGY/ ENTOM 371	Medical Entomology: Biology of Vector and Vector-borne Diseases	ZOOLOGY 620	Neuroethology Seminar
ZOOLOGY 403	Endocrinology	ZOOLOGY/ ENTOM/ GENETICS 624	Molecular Ecology
ZOOLOGY 400	Topics in Biology	ZOOLOGY 655	Modeling Neurodevelopmental Disease
ZOOLOGY 401	Topics in Biology	ZOOLOGY/ F&W ECOL 660	Climate Change Ecology
ZOOLOGY 405	Introduction to Museum Studies in the Natural Sciences	ZOOLOGY/ BOTANY 672	Historical Ecology
ZOOLOGY/ ANTHRO/ BOTANY 410	Evolutionary Biology	ZOOLOGY/ NEURODPT/ PSYCH 674	Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Seminar
ZOOLOGY 415	Genetics of Human History	ZOOLOGY 677	Internship in Ecology
ZOOLOGY 425	Behavioral Ecology	ZOOLOGY 681	Senior Honors Thesis
ZOOLOGY 430	Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates	& ZOOLOGY 682	and Senior Honors Thesis
ZOOLOGY/ BOTANY 450	Midwestern Ecological Issues: A Case Study Approach	ZOOLOGY 691	Senior Thesis
ZOOLOGY/ BOTANY 460	General Ecology	& ZOOLOGY 692	and Senior Thesis
ZOOLOGY 470	Introduction to Animal Development	ZOOLOGY 698	Directed Study
ZOOLOGY/ BOTANY/ ENTOM 473	Plant-Insect Interactions	ZOOLOGY 699	Directed Studies in Zoology
ZOOLOGY 500	Undergraduate Neurobiology Seminar	ANAT&PHY 335	Physiology ¹
ZOOLOGY/ ENVIR ST 510	Ecology of Fishes	ANAT&PHY 338	Human Anatomy Laboratory
ZOOLOGY/ ENVIR ST 511	Ecology of Fishes Lab	ANTHRO 444	Primate Nutritional Ecology
ZOOLOGY/ BOTANY/ ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL 516	Conservation Biology	ANTHRO 458	Primate Behavioral Ecology
ZOOLOGY/ F&W ECOL 520	Ornithology	ANTHRO 668	Primate Conservation
ZOOLOGY/ F&W ECOL 521	Birds of Southern Wisconsin	BIOCHEM 501	Introduction to Biochemistry
ZOOLOGY/ PSYCH 523	Neurobiology	BIOCHEM 507	General Biochemistry I
ZOOLOGY/ GEOSCI 542	Invertebrate Paleontology	BOTANY 330	Algae
ZOOLOGY 555	Laboratory in Developmental Biology	ENTOM 331	Taxonomy of Mature Insects
ZOOLOGY/ F&W ECOL/ LAND ARC 565	Principles of Landscape Ecology	ENTOM 450	Basic and Applied Insect Ecology
ZOOLOGY 570	Cell Biology	ENVIR ST/ LAND ARC 361	Wetlands Ecology
ZOOLOGY 604	Computer-based Gene and Disease/Disorder Research Lab	ENVIR ST 375	Field Ecology Workshop
		F&W ECOL 306	Terrestrial Vertebrates: Life History and Ecology
		F&W ECOL/ SURG SCI 548	Diseases of Wildlife
		GENETICS 466	Principles of Genetics
		GENETICS 545	Genetics Laboratory
		MICROBIO 303	Biology of Microorganisms
		MICROBIO 304	Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory
		MICROBIO 345	Introduction to Disease Biology
		M M & I 341	Immunology
		M M & I/PATH- BIO 528	Immunology
		PSYCH 449	Animal Behavior
		PSYCH 450	Primate Psychology: Insights into Human Behavior

PSYCH 454	Behavioral Neuroscience
PSYCH 513	Hormones, Brain, and Behavior
Total Credits	20-25

A maximum of 6 credits of approved non-ZOOLOGY subject courses count toward the 30 credits required for the major. Students can take ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 101 Animal Biology and ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 102 Animal Biology Laboratory for the Introductory Biology requirement is recommended for students who complete this sequence.

¹ Only 3 credits of ANAT&PHY 335 Physiology count toward the 6 credits of approved non-ZOOLOGY subject courses.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all ZOOLOGY and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 Upper Level major credits, taken in Residence ¹
- 15 credits in ZOOLOGY, or courses that count for the major, taken on the UW-Madison campus

¹ ZOOLOGY 299–699, intermediate/advanced BIOCORE, and courses that count toward the major that have an intermediate/advanced designation are considered Upper Level in the major.

HONORS IN THE ZOOLOGY MAJOR

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

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA in all courses that count toward the major
- Complete 12 credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better. Select 6 credits from ZOOLOGY 300-680 or approved non-ZOOLOGY subject courses (above).
- Complete ZOOLOGY 681 and ZOOLOGY 682, for a total of 6 credits.¹

¹ A written thesis proposal must be approved by the thesis mentor and a department advisor. While most theses are completed during the fall and spring of a student's senior year, other combinations of terms are possible. More information about the proposal process, timing, and grading of a thesis can be found on the Department of Integrative Biology website.