

How to Create a 4-year Plan in the Department of Biology

Important things to understand/do for your plan:

- Because of the flexibility and customizability of our majors, the Academic Success Coordinators will not make a 4-year plan for you (but we're here to help make sure your plan will work). A lot of the courses you take will be up to you!
- Understand your curriculum (all the courses you need to take to graduate).
- Pick out your selected/additional field courses for the biology major or your upper-division zoology credits for the zoology major.
- Understand the prerequisites for courses you need/want to take and when the courses are offered. Not every course is offered every semester!
- Everyone's path to their degree is different and 4-year plans always change many times for many reasons – you'll need to be flexible. Creating your plan in an Excel spreadsheet will make it much easier to make necessary changes in the future.

Where to find the information you need:

- For your biology or zoology degree, requirements can be found online at: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/undergraduates>. You will also go over these things when you meet with an Academic Success Coordinator (and you will be given a copy). If you have a second major or a minor, make sure you meet with an advisor in that department to get help with your other requirements.
- Descriptions, prerequisites, semester(s) offered, and other important information (like if the class has a lab or recitation) for every class at CSU can be found online at: www.catalog.colostate.edu. The courses are organized by subject and then listed in numerical order.

Rules of thumb to follow while making your plan:

- To avoid overload, try not to take more than 3 science/math courses or more than 2 labs in any given semester. Balance your schedule each semester with AUCC courses or electives.
- When you finish your plan, make sure you have at least 120 total credits and at least 42 upper-division credits. Add electives to your plan if you have deficiencies in either of these places.
- Regardless of how solid your plan is, make sure to visit an Academic Success Coordinator every semester to make sure things are staying on track!

Resources available to help get your plan finalized:

- You can find major completion maps online at: <http://wsnet.colostate.edu/CWIS608/Home/MajorCompletionMap>.
- You are always welcome to get help from an Academic Success Coordinator if you get stuck or want someone to check over your plan. As always, appointments can be scheduled online at: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/undergraduates/schedule-an-appointment/>.
- If you are interested in a health profession (i.e., medical school, vet school, etc.), make sure to have a Health Professions Advisors in CASA check over your plan as well. Call 970-491-7095 to schedule an appointment with one of them.

NAME:
MAJOR:

FOUR YEAR PLANNING GUIDE – YEAR 1					
Fall/Year:	Credits	Spring/Year:	Credits	Summer/Year:	Credits
Total Credits		Total Credits		Total Credits	

FOUR YEAR PLANNING GUIDE – YEAR 2					
Fall/Year:	Credits	Spring/Year:	Credits	Summer/Year:	Credits
Total Credits		Total Credits		Total Credits	

*Remember that courses vary in terms of when they are offered e.g. Fall/Spring/Summer or only Fall of even/odd years. Please make sure you have alternative courses identified.

*Many classes have required labs or recitation sections associated with them. Please make sure to double check when planning your schedule.
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NAME:
 MAJOR:

FOUR YEAR PLANNING GUIDE – YEAR 3					
Fall/Year:	Credits	Spring/Year:	Credits	Summer/Year:	Credits
Total Credits		Total Credits		Total Credits	

FOUR YEAR PLANNING GUIDE – YEAR 4					
Fall/Year:	Credits	Spring/Year:	Credits	Summer/Year:	Credits
Total Credits		Total Credits		Total Credits	

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