

**Undergraduate Newsletter**  
**Department of Biology**  
**September 2020**

Welcome to the September issue, and welcome back to the community of Biology! We trust that you are staying healthy, settled in, and ready to pursue more endeavours in this atypical year.

This month's newsletter highlights some important program requirements. It is best to consider or adjust your program at this stage of the academic year to meet the needed requirements, especially after a hectic course selection period. Please feel free to contact us (Julie French or Ken Ko) for advice and help.

This issue also marks the start of this year's career-building opportunities, such as fellowships and research awards. Check them out and ready your submissions for these lucrative endeavours!

**Planning considerations for the 2020-2021 academic year**

This academic year is for sure like no other with many challenges and uncertainties for all. Now that registration is "beginning to settle" and attention turned onto remotely delivered courses, it is prudent to take a moment to assess your program. After the first week of classes, you should have a better sense of your courses and the adjustments needed to maximize your academic performance in your program of choice. Aspects to reflect on would be course load and its online workload, and the balance between core and interest courses (i.e. are there too many core courses creating a heavy workload for an online/remote environment, etc.). Many upper year courses can be scheduled flexibly between third and fourth year.

For BIOL212 this year, we can only manage to offer this on-campus course in the Winter Term (this course was designed to be offered twice, fall and winter, so lots of flexibility in normal times). We are further limited by the fact that BIOL212 is a lab course and that there is a finite amount of physical lab space and lab equipment to operate the course safely, hence the atypical enrolment cap this year.

Be reminded that BIOL212 itself is flexible with respect to when it can be taken in a plan, e.g., later years. This is thus a feature used to help manage this year's single offering. Students in plans with more opportunities to shift things around, such as cross-departmental plans, were advised (when asked) to consider helping us manage by shifting 212 to another time. We certainly hope to be back to our double offering per year again with 320 combined spots in the following academic year.

## Wondering about how many courses you can take from other Faculties and Schools towards your degree plan/program?

A maximum of 6.0 units from courses offered by other Faculties and Schools may be counted towards the Program and/or Plan requirements of any degree in the Faculty of Arts and Science, in addition to any such courses allowed as either Core or Option course requirements.

The courses listed in the document below are approved for students in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-calendar#section-courses-of-instruction>

## Not sure if you have picked up the right courses for your degree plan?

It is important that you check your degree plan/program requirements before the end of the September add/drop date (Sept. 21st) to ensure you are on target. Please review your degree plan/program requirements using SOLUS. This is a great tool and will help keep you on track. September 21st<sup>h</sup> is the last day to add fall **and** fall-winter classes.

## BTEC Updates Due to Curriculum Changes Made by the Other Faculties

PHAR 270 is currently listed as one of the BTEC Option courses. This course has been renumbered to PHAR 370. Either of these courses will count as a BTEC Option course (but not both).

PHAR 380 – note this is not a BTEC Option course. If you take this, it will count as an elective only.

PHAR 480 is now the equivalent to DDHT 459. DDHT 459 is currently listed as one of the BTEC Option courses. Students are now able to count either PHAR 480 or DDHT 459 as a BTEC Option course (but not both).

## Wondering how to contact your course program associate regarding work associated with the lab component of core courses?

BIOL 102: [biol102@queensu.ca](mailto:biol102@queensu.ca)

BIOL 103: [biol103@queensu.ca](mailto:biol103@queensu.ca)

BIOL 200: [biol200@queensu.ca](mailto:biol200@queensu.ca)

BIOL 205: [biol205@queensu.ca](mailto:biol205@queensu.ca)

BIOL 206: [biol206@queensu.ca](mailto:biol206@queensu.ca)

BIOL 212: [biol212@queensu.ca](mailto:biol212@queensu.ca)

BIOL 300: [biol300@queensu.ca](mailto:biol300@queensu.ca)

## Important Links

Updates on Fall 2020 <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/fall2020>

Updates on COVID-19: <https://www.queensu.ca/covidinfo/>

## REMINDERS!

### ***Biology Degree Plans***

*Review your degree plan requirements and make sure you are selecting courses you need. Degree plan requirements can be found at: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci>.*

### ***Biological Foundations List - IMPORTANT!***

*The Biological Foundations List is BIOL 102, 103, 200 (201, 202), 205, 206, 212, 300, 330, 334, 339, 341 (BIOL 302, 303).*

*To be admitted to BIOL 400 and 500 level Biology courses you will need a minimum GPA of 2.0 in any previously taken courses from this list.*

## Helpful Links

[Information on Applying for a Course Prerequisite Waiver](#)

[Arts and Science Academic Deadlines](#)

[Arts and Science Calendar](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

BIOLOGY Undergraduate Office  
Mon to Friday 8:30 to noon and 1:00 to 3:00pm  
[frenchj@queensu.ca](mailto:frenchj@queensu.ca)

[January 2020](#)

[March 2020](#)

[April 2020](#)

[May 2020](#)

[June 2020](#)

[July 2020](#)

August 2020