We trust that your summer endeavours are progressing productively and are pleasurable. Although the start of the new academic year is a while away, we are busy ramping up with registration. Julie French and I, Ken Ko (Undergraduate Chair), would thus like to introduce you to our new Biology Undergraduate Newsletter. This short newsletter is designed primarily as a working tool to help steer us through the time-sensitive intricacies of course selection, registration, and associated decisions. The second priority of the newsletter is to highlight tools and events for career development. Keep these newsletters handy for helpful pointers and timelines. So to begin, here are this month’s pointers.

Course Registration
It is time again to decide on which courses to take for your degree plan. We would advise you to plan carefully by selecting not only courses for the coming year but future years as well, to see how your plan pans out. Review all BIOL course offerings and course pre and/or co-requisites. Course descriptions can be found at: [http://www.queensu.ca/artsci](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci). Note that not all BIOL courses will be offered each year, so take this into consideration when creating your future plan.

Timetable – Scheduling Courses
Every effort has been made to schedule BIOL courses conflict free. This is a complex feat, therefore it is not always possible to schedule BIOL 300, 400 and 500 level courses conflict free. You may not be able to schedule the combination of courses you have decided on and may need to anticipate changes to your choices. Note: The Department of Biology does not waive timetabling conflicts. The expectation is that you are able to attend all scheduled lectures, labs, seminars, and tutorials for each course.

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](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci).

FOR BIOL-M-BSH (MAJ BIOL) ONLY
Effective starting 2018-19, the 2nd year CHEM requirement (see Requirement 2. Option – A) has changed from 6.0 to 3.0 units from CHEM at the 200 level or above. As a consequence, the number of additional BIOL @300 level courses required has increased by 3.0 units to make up for only needing 3.0 units in CHEM at 200 level or above; Subs list A; Subs list B (see Requirement 2. Option List 2.B.i. or 2.B.ii.).

This change is applicable to all BIOL MAJ students. If you started your degree before 2018-19 you may choose to follow this new plan or you may wish to instead follow the plan as listed for the year you were admitted to the degree plan. To reiterate, this change only applies to the MAJ BIOL.

BIOL-M-BSH, BIMA-P-BSH, BIPS-P-BSH – CHANGES TO THE ECOLOGY COURSES
Effective starting 2018-19, these degree plans now require BIOL-300/3.0-Ecology. Previously the requirement was 3.0 from BIOL 302; BIOL 303. BIOL 302 and 303 have been changed to BIOL
If you have previously taken either BIOL 302 or 303 to fill this requirement you do not need to take BIOL 300.

New Biology 2nd Year Core (effective Sept. 2019)
Starting September 2019, the 2nd year Biology core program will be

*NEW* Scientific Methods in Biology (BIOL 212)

Diversity of Life (BIOL 200)
Mendelian & Molecular Biology (BIOL 205)
Evolutionary Genetics (BIOL 206)
Introductory Statistics (BIOL 243)

What is the new course? We have created a new course called Scientific Methods in Biology (BIOL 212). This is a hands-on course that uses experiential learning to teach how to do biological research. You will learn to develop scientific hypotheses, design studies, and run experiments. Working in small pods, you will get to work with a range of cool organisms, learn new lab & field skills, and see how research can be used to answer some of our most pressing global challenges.

Why changes to other courses? Things can be busy in second year. To make room for the new course, we merged two existing courses into one (BIOL 201 & BIOL 202 → BIOL 200). We also removed the labs from all other 2nd year courses and replaced them with tutorials, which means your schedule will be less congested.

What does this mean for me? More hands-on experience, more active learning, and a reduced workload compared to our old curriculum.

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
Frequently Asked Questions

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