Biology Courses for First-year Students

Below are suggestions for first-year students interested in biology. For more details, please see your Course of Study, or contact Chris Gillen, Chair of Biology, gillenc@kenyon.edu, or 427-5399.

BIOLOGY MAJOR: Biology majors need to complete three one-semester courses during their first two years (BIOL 112 Evolution and Ecology, 113 Cell to Organism, and 114 Genetics and Development) as well as the lab course BIOL 109Y-110Y. Biology majors also should complete at least one year of chemistry during their first two years. Information on the intro courses is below.

1. **BIOL 112, 113, and 114** may be taken in any order with the following guidelines:
   - First year students typically take 112(fall) / 113(spring), 112 / 114, or 113 / 114.
   - The prerequisite for BIOL 114 is BIOL 112, BIOL 113, sophomore standing, or AP5. Only first-year students with an AP score of 5 should consider taking BIOL 114 in the Fall.
   - BIOL 112 is only taught in the Fall. Students interested in Evolution and Ecology should enroll in BIOL 112 in the Fall and then BIOL 113 or BIOL 114 in the Spring.
   - BIOL 113 and BIOL 114 are requirements for medical school and health professions.

2. **BIOL 109Y-110Y** is a stand-alone, yearlong, entry-level lab course that can be taken independently of BIOL 112, 113, or 114. It is a health professions and medical school requirement.

First year students who wish to major in Biology should consider these schedules for the full first year:

1. Those with a strong background in science and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry majors:
   - Two lecture courses from BIOL 112, BIOL 113, and BIOL 114. **IMPORTANT:** Potential Molecular Biology and Biochemistry majors should take BIOL 113 and 114.
   - Introduction to Experimental Biology: BIOL 109Y-110Y
   - Introductory Chemistry lecture: CHEM 121 (or 122) and 124 (or 125)
   - Introductory Chemistry lab: CHEM 123, 126
   - Two to four additional courses

2. A more relaxed schedule, postponing Chemistry until sophomore year.
   - Two lecture courses (BIOL 112, BIOL 113, and/or BIOL 114).
   - Intro to Experimental Biology: BIOL 109Y-110Y
   - Five to seven additional courses

3. To keep Biology possible as a major, or possibly a minor, select from one of the following:
   - One intro lecture (BIOL 112, BIOL 113, or BIOL 114) and BIOL 109Y-110Y
   - Two intro lectures (BIOL 112, BIOL 113, and/or BIOL 114)
   - One intro lecture (BIOL 112, 113, or 114) and a full year of Chemistry lecture plus Chem lab.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: AP 4 and 5 receive 0.5 units of credit. Students with AP 5 receive credit for BIOL 113 and we recommend they begin with BIOL 114. Those with AP 3 or 4 should start with BIOL 112 or BIOL 113. Consult Chris Gillen (gillenc@kenyon.edu) for additional placement advice.

PREMEDICAL REQUIREMENTS: BIOL 113 and BIOL 114 lectures plus BIOL 109-110 lab satisfies the medical school and health professions requirement for a course in general biology. See the pre-health advising page at http://www.kenyon.edu/premed.xml for more details about medical school requirements and suggested first-year course schedules.

NON-MAJORS: The following non-major courses are highly recommended for first-year students.

**BIOL 103** Biology of Science Fiction; **BIOL 191** Biological Scaling: Why Size Matters; **ENVS 112** Introduction to Environmental Studies

All three courses count toward the Natural Science distribution requirement but not towards the Biology major. **BIOL 103** and **BIOL 191** count towards the Quantitative Reasoning requirement.