BIOLOGY, BS - GRADES 7-12
LIFE SCIENCE EDUCATION CONCENTRATION

Program Description

Introduction
The College of Science and Engineering is committed to the support of students seeking to become science, mathematics and technology educators at all levels. The Science, Mathematics and Technology Education (SMTE) program offers content courses for students seeking K-12 science, mathematics and technology education. SMTE classes are also an integral part of the course work for degrees preparing students for Teacher Certifications. The SMTE program does not offer a degree; rather, degrees leading to Teacher Certification are offered by other Science and Engineering programs and by the College of Education and Human Development. Students seeking to teach in the elementary and secondary schools of Texas must meet degree requirements as well as certification requirements. The requirements and procedure to become a science, mathematics or technology teacher in Texas are outlined below. Undergraduate students who are graduating from the College of Science & Engineering or the College of Liberal Arts who are seeking initial teacher certification at the 4-8, 7-12 and EC-12 levels prior to graduation, automatically qualify for the Minor in Education.

How to Become a Science, Mathematics or Technology Teacher in Texas
In order to be recommended for teacher certification at this university, a candidate must fulfill three basic requirements:

1. have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university that includes an academic major and teacher training courses,
2. complete teacher training through an approved program, and
3. successfully complete the appropriate teacher certification tests for the subject and grade level that the candidate wishes to teach.

Additional information on the requirements to become a teacher in Texas can be obtained at the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) website: http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/certinfo/becometeacher.asp. This website also provides information on the resources available to help students pay for a teacher training program.

SBEC has approved three levels of teacher certification for regular educators:

1. Early childhood to grade 6 which includes foundation subjects and enrichment areas such as art, PE, and music,
2. Grade 4-8 which includes the foundation areas only, and
3. Grade 7-12 certification.

Students can find information on the different certifications at the official Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES) Web site: http://www.texas.ets.org. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi offers several degrees leading to a number of these teacher certifications. The College of Education and Human Development offers several degrees leading to teacher certification. The College of Science and Engineering offers bachelor's degrees leading to teacher certification in the sciences, mathematics and technology at the 4-8 and the 7-12 levels:

- Biology, BS - Grades 7-12 Life Science Education Concentration (120-122 sem. hrs.) Details immediately follow below.
- Chemistry, BS - Grades 7-12 Physical Science Education Concentration (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/bachelors/chemistry-bs-grades-7-12-physical-science-education-concentration/) (126-128 sem. hrs.)
- Environmental Science, BS - Grades 4-8 Science Education Concentration (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/bachelors/environmental-science-bs-grades-4-8-science-education-concentration/) (125-130 sem. hrs.)
- Elementary Education, BS - Grades 4-8 with Mathematics Certification (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/teaching-certificates/elementary-education-bs-grades-4-8-mathematics-certification/) (College of Education and Human Development)
- Mathematics, BS - Grades 7-12 Mathematics Education Concentration (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/bachelors/mathematics-bs-grades-7-12-education-concentration/) (120 sem. hrs.)

Mathematics 7-12 teacher certification is also possible with an undergraduate major other than mathematics. Details can be found in the Mathematics, Grades 7-12 Teacher Certification Without a Mathematics Major (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/teaching-certificates/mathematics-grades-7-12-teacher-certification-without-major/) section.

The individual programs, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Mathematics offer these degrees and courses.

Students seeking Teacher Certification are also strongly urged to contact the Certification Officer in the College of Education and Human Development about current requirements and procedures that must be met to obtain the certificate. In particular, students following a degree plan leading to teacher certification must be admitted to the Teacher Education Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi prior to enrolling in any 4000 level EDCI or EDUC courses. Application forms for admission to the teacher education program may be obtained from the Undergraduate or Certification Office, room FC 201. The students are referred to the College of Education and Human Development section of this catalog for more information on the Teacher Education Program.

Grade Point Average for Admission to Teacher Education
A minimum grade point average of 2.75 (4.0 = A) in all work attempted, a minimum grade point average of 2.75 in all science, math, or specialization areas, and no grade below “C” in any science or mathematics course on a student’s degree plan and/or education courses within the professional block of courses are required. (See College of Education and Human Development, “Admission to Teacher Education” and “Admission to Clinical Teaching” for other requirements.)

Alteration of a Certification Plan
Any amendment to a degree plan originally filed must be approved by the student’s academic advisor, the Department Chair, the Dean of the College of Science and Engineering, and the Certification Officer of the College of Education and Human Development for the degree to be granted.

General Requirements
The Life Science Education plan is designed for those students who desire a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and a secondary teaching certificate in life science. The requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree
with grades 7-12 Life Science Education Concentration are a minimum of 120 semester hours. Forty-two are designated University core curriculum courses; 39 are biology teaching core courses, and 27 are professional development courses. Other requirements include a psychology course and upper division elective courses.

1 Students may have to take additional hours to meet university requirements such as First-Year Seminar courses or major requirements that include 4 hour math and science courses.

Additional Educational Requirements for Certification
Students seeking teaching certification are required to complete 9 credits of English coursework and 3 credits of Public Speaking coursework.

ENGL 1302 Writing and Rhetoric (3 sch) and a literature course (ENGL 2316 Literature and Culture (3 sch) or ENGL 2332 Literature of the Western World: From the Classics to the Renaissance (3 sch)) from the core curriculum will satisfy 6 of the 9 required credits. Either COMM 1311 Foundation of Communication (3 sch) or COMM 1315 Public Speaking (3 sch) will satisfy the public speaking course requirement.

### Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-Year Seminars (when applicable)^1</td>
<td>0-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Areas</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology Teaching Core</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development/Reading Sequence</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>122-124</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^1 Full-time, first time in college students are required to take the first-year seminars. The First-Year Seminars will not count towards the 120 hour minimum requirements to graduate.
- UNIV 1101 First-Year Seminar I (1 sch)
- UNIV 1102 First-Year Seminar II (1 sch)

### Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 1101</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar I</td>
<td>1</td>
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### Core Curriculum Program

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Life Science Education students must take specific courses to ensure they have the proper prerequisites for more advanced coursework:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1311 Foundation of Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1302 Writing and Rhetoric</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathematics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 2413 Calculus I (lab hours under Component Area Option)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life and Physical Sciences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1406 Biology I (lab hours under Component Area Option)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1407 Biology II (lab hours under Component Area Option)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Language, Philosophy, and Culture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students must select one literature course of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2316 Literature and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 2332 Literature of the Western World: From the Classics to the Renaissance</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 2333 Literature of the Western World: From the Enlightenment to the Present</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component Area Option</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1406 Biology I (Lab Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1407 Biology II (Lab Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 2413 Calculus I (Lab Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 1411 General Chemistry I (lab hours under Support Areas)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Support Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1412 General Chemistry II</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 3411 Organic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 3301 Technical and Professional Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1411 General Chemistry I (1 sem. hr. lab)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Biology Teaching Core</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1406 Biology I (included in University Core)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1407 Biology II (included in University Core)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2371 Principles of Evolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2416 Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2421 Microbiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 3428 Principles of Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 2413 Calculus I (included in University Core)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMTE 4270 Science Education Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMTE 4217 Secondary Approaches to the Life Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMTE 4320 Secondary Science Laboratory Techniques</td>
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<tr>
<th>Chemistry of Life/Cell Biology Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3403 Molecular Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOL 3410 Cell Biology</td>
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<tr>
<th>Organismal (Animal) Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3413 Invertebrate Zoology</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOL 3414 Vertebrate Zoology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Organismal (Plant) Requirement
BIOL 2472 Principles of Botany 4
or BIOL 4422 Plant Taxonomy

Upper Division Biology Elective Requirement
Select one of the following electives: 3
- BIOL 3325 Biostatistics
- BIOL 4301 Embryology
- BIOL 4302 Coral Reef Conservation
- BIOL 4308 Biogeography
- BIOL 4319 Biology of Marine Mammals
- BIOL 4323 Global Change Ecology
- BIOL 4328 Fisheries
- BIOL 4335 Conservation Biology
- BIOL 4343 Oceans and Human Health
- BIOL 4370 Mariculture
- BIOL 4371 Population Genetics
- BIOL 4304 Biology of Viruses

Other upper division Biology courses may be taken with approval

Professional Development and Reading Sequence

Pre-Liminary Courses
READ 3353 Content Area Reading for Secondary Students 3
EDUC 3311 School and Society 3

Field-Based Semester
EDUC 4605 Planning, Teaching, Assessment and Technology 6
EDUC 4321 Instructional Design for Special Populations 3

Student Teaching Semester
EDUC 4311 Classroom Management 3
EDUC 4995 Clinical Teaching 9

Total Hours 124

1 Students entering with some college credit may not be required to take one or both of the First-Year Seminar courses (see the "First-Year Seminar (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/university-college/programs/first-year-learning-communities-program/)") section of the Core Curriculum Program for rules and exceptions concerning these courses.

The hours associated with the First-Year Seminars do not count toward the total number of semester credit hours needed to graduate.

2 COMM 1311 Foundation of Communication (3 sch) meets the public speaking requirement for teacher certification; ENGL 1301 Composition I (3 sch) can be used to fulfill the public speaking requirement, but may not be used to fulfill other requirements in English.

3 Students who are not eligible to enroll in MATH 2413 Calculus I (4 sch) will need to take additional prerequisite courses (3-9 sem. hrs.) depending on their math placement level (i.e., MATH 0300 Developmental Mathematics (3 sch), MATH 1314 College Algebra (3 sch) and MATH 1316 Trigonometry (3 sch), or MATH 2312 Precalculus (3 sch)).

Courses

BIOL 1308 Science for Life I (Non-Majors Biology)
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
A non-majors science course in which students will learn basic biological principles, identify the relevance of science in everyday life, and will understand the scientific method. Hands-on lab activities will reinforce course concepts. This course does not substitute for BIOL 1406 - Biology I or BIOL 1407 - Biology II for science majors.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.
TCCNS: BIOL 1308

BIOL 1406 Biology I
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 2 Lab Hours)
Presentation of basic biological concepts including scientific method, cytology, energetics, nucleic acids and genetics. This course is suitable for all majors.
Prerequisite: (MATH 1314, 1316, 2305, 2413, minimum score of 21 in 'ACT Math' or minimum score of 550 in 'SAT Math').
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.
TCCNS: BIOL 1406

BIOL 1407 Biology II
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
This course is an overview of the major concepts in biological diversity and plant and animal biology. Laboratory work will include individual/team activities as well as technology-related assignments.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1406.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.
TCCNS: BIOL 1407

BIOL 2300 Science Communication
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course involves presentation and discussion of selected topics relating to the professional skills of practicing biological scientists, including basic software instruction, a review of library services pertinent to science, the application of scientific literature research skills, hypothesis generation and statistical tests, critical reviews of scientific articles, and an introduction to ethical issues in science.

Support Areas

To become certified to teach, a total of 9 sem. hrs. of English are required.
Six of these credit hours are taken in the University Core Curriculum
BIOL 2371 Principles of Evolution
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An overview of the mechanisms by which heritable information changes, adaptations develop, and species diversify. Provides a foundation for molecular, cellular, and organismal studies in the biological sciences.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Structure and function of the human body emphasizing biological chemistry, cell biology, tissues, and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems. Not recommended for majors in the College of Science and Engineering. To count this course toward a major in the Department of Life Sciences, a student must demonstrate that it is required by professional schools in his or her career track and obtain approval for a substitution from his or her faculty mentor. Students may not receive credit for both this course and either BIOL 3425 - Functional Anatomy or BIOL 3430 - Physiology.
Co-requisite: BIOL 2401.
TCCNS: BIOL 2401

BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Structure and function of the human body emphasizing blood, growth, development, genetics, and the endocrine, digestive, respiratory, cardiovascular, lymphatic, immune and urogenital systems. Not recommended for majors in the College of Science and Engineering. To count this course toward a major in the Department of Life Sciences, a student must demonstrate that it is required by professional schools in his or her career track and obtain approval for a substitution from his or her faculty mentor. Students may not receive credit for both this course and either BIOL 3425 - Functional Anatomy or BIOL 3430 - Physiology.
Prerequisite: BIOL 2401.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.
TCCNS: BIOL 2402

BIOL 2416 Genetics
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Principles of genetic transmissions and molecular basis of heredity and variation. Weekly recitation periods will involve team assignments, problem solving activities, and seminars.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1406 and 1407.
TCCNS: BIOL 2416

BIOL 2420 Principles of Microbiology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Introduction to microorganisms with emphasis on those of importance in patient care. Principles of disinfection, sterilization, immunity. This class is intended for nursing majors; it cannot substitute for BIOL 2421 - Microbiology.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0092.
TCCNS: BIOL 2420

BIOL 2421 Microbiology
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
An introduction to microorganisms including the bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Laboratory involves microbiological techniques and development of basic laboratory skills.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1406, 1407, CHEM 1411 and 1412.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0092.
TCCNS: BIOL 2421

BIOL 2472 Principles of Botany
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
Introduction to the structure, function, diversity and application of plants. Laboratory focus on anatomical features, physiological adaptations, classification, and life cycles.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407 and CHEM 1411.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 3300 Animal Nutrition
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Examines the dietary requirements of both companion animals and livestock. Includes the anatomy, physiology and biochemistry of the gastrointestinal system, nutrient procurement and use, feed additives, growth stimulants, metabolic diseases, and diet therapy. Cross listed with BIMS 3300.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407 and CHEM 3411 and (CHEM 3412 or 3412*).
* May be taken concurrently.

BIOL 3325 Biostatistics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The application of statistical analyses to biological data. Students will gain an understanding of how to apply statistical analyses to biological data through study of the principles of experimental design including how to frame informative research questions. At a fundamental level, these concepts are linked to the philosophy of science and our understanding of the way the world works.

BIOL 3345 Cell Physiology
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Emphasis on cellular functions that underlie physiological processes, transport across membranes, membrane potential and excitability, the cell nucleus, and organelles and their relationship to energy, metabolism, and transport mechanisms within the cell. Offered during Spring semester of odd-numbered years.
Prerequisite: BIOL 2200 or BIMS 2200 and BIOL 3410.

BIOL 3403 Molecular Biology
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
Principles of molecular biology including advanced concepts of gene structure, expression and regulation, chromatin structure, recombination, and current molecular biology techniques. Laboratory emphasis is on basic skills for nucleic acid analyses, including extraction, PCR amplification, quantification, restriction, and electrophoresis. DNA sequencing-based approaches are covered including bioinformatics for sequence comparisons, polymorphisms, and molecular identification. Cross listed with BIMS 3403.
Prerequisite: BIOL 2416 and 2421.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0092.

BIOL 3410 Cell Biology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Study of cellular architecture and function. Topics include membranes, transport, organelles, cytoskeleton, and signaling mechanisms. Interrelationships of structure, function, energy and metabolism are explored. Laboratory will emphasize basic techniques of cell biology.
Prerequisite: BIOL 2416 and CHEM 3411.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0092.
BIOL 3413 Invertebrate Zoology
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 1 Lab Hour)
Structure, life history, and evolution of the invertebrates with special
emphasis on the phylogeny and ecological relationships of the major
phyla. Laboratory will involve field trips and survey collections. Offered
Spring semester every year.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 3414 Vertebrate Zoology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Structure, life history, and evolution of the vertebrates with special
emphasis on the phylogeny and ecological relationships of the classes.
Laboratory will involve field trips and survey collections. Offered only in
Spring semester.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 3425 Functional Anatomy
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
General trends in morphological development and adaptation as
demonstrated by the anatomy and embryology of living and extinct
chordates. Students may not receive credit for both this course and
either BIOL 2401 - Anatomy and Physiology I or BIOL 2402 - Anatomy and
Physiology II.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 3428 Principles of Ecology
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
Introduction to the interrelationships of organisms and their environment.
Population structure, community classification and regulation, and
energy flow in ecosystems will also be covered. Laboratory sections will
focus on experimental design and field techniques in ecology.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407 and (BIOL 2200, 2300, BIMS 2200 or UNIV 1101
and UNIV 1102) and CHEM 1411 and (MATH 2413 or 2413 ³).
* May be taken concurrently.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 3430 Physiology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
The study of physiological processes that are the product of complex
interactions between tissues, organs and organ systems, with emphasis
on the circulatory, respiratory, endocrine, muscular, digestive, and
urogenital systems. Particular focus on homeostasis, and the role of
the environment and evolution on organ systems. Students may not
receive credit for both this course and either BIOL 2401 - Anatomy and
Physiology I, or BIOL 2402 - Anatomy and Physiology II.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 3455 Plant form and Function
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
Anatomy of vegetative and reproductive organs of plants, unique cellular
features, development and differentiation of cell and tissue types.
Emphasis on physiological mechanisms of response and adaptation to
the environment.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 3479 Plant Ecology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Structure, physiology, life cycles, and economic impact of plants. Factors
influencing diversity, succession and ecological distribution of plants.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4100 Research Ethics and Professionalism
1 Semester Credit Hour (1 Lecture Hour)
A course designed to enhance the professionalism of undergraduate
researchers. This course discusses the codified aspects of research
erthics, including fabrication, falsification and plagiarism of data;
assigning authorship, submitting manuscripts to more than one journal
and management of lab teams. It also addresses careers in science,
resume writing, producing the successful application and interviewing
skills.

BIOL 4301 Embryology
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Studies the events that occur just prior to and during gestation. Includes
gametogenesis, chromosomal and single gene aberrations, teratology,
and the development of the body systems.
Prerequisite: BIOL 2416.

BIOL 4302 Coral Reef Conservation
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Survey of challenges and threats facing coral reef ecosystems in the 21st
century and discussion of conservation and management strategies.
Topics include biology and ecology of reef ecosystems, climate change
impacts, coaral bleaching, over-fishing and the effectiveness and design of
marine protected areas.

BIOL 4304 Biology of Viruses
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Introduction to the study of viruses, including viral life cycles, replication
schemes and Baltimore classification of representative bacteriophages,
plant and animal viruses. Emphasis on analysis and review of primary
literature on viruses.
Prerequisite: BIOL 2416, 2421 and CHEM 1411.

BIOL 4308 Biogeography
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course offers an overview of the theories, methods, and current
directions in modern biogeography, emphasizing marine and terrestrial
plant and animal species and communities.

BIOL 4311 Biological Bases of Behavior
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This lecture-based course examines the processes by which neuronal
circuits generate behaviors and the mechanisms by which experience
modulates the activity of these circuits.
Prerequisite: BIMS 4323.

BIOL 4312 Mariculture Techniques
3 Semester Credit Hours (2 Lecture Hours, 2 Lab Hours)
The study and hands-on application of biological, mechanical, and other
concepts required to develop the skills and techniques necessary for
efficient operation and management of public and private aquaculture
facilities. Offered in Fall of odd-numbered years.
Prerequisite: BIOL 4370.

BIOL 4319 Biology of Marine Mammals
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Introduction to marine mammals, with a focus on their interactions with
their biotic and abiotic environment
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
BIOL 4323  Global Change Ecology  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
An introduction to the effects of climatic and anthropogenic change on terrestrial and aquatic structure and function. Includes readings from the current literature and discussion of controversial articles.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 3428.

BIOL 4328  Fisheries  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
A study of theory and techniques in fisheries science, including practical fisheries sampling designs and techniques, behavior of fisheries populations and application to resource management with emphasis in tide-influenced waters. Includes readings in the current literature.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.

BIOL 4329  Fisheries Techniques  
3 Semester Credit Hours (2 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)  
This class is designed to provide practical experience in the theory and application of traditional and modern fisheries sampling and analytical techniques used in Fisheries Science and Management. This is a hands-on field- and laboratory-based course that will develop skills that are most commonly used by fisheries biologists and technicians. Offered in Fall of even-numbered years.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 4328.

BIOL 4334  Biology and Ecology of Coral Reefs  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
This course will introduce the biology of corals, describe the abiotic and biotic interactions among coral reef ecosystem inhabitants, identify the threats of climate change, and discuss the conservation and management of reefs for the future. Offered every spring.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 3428.

BIOL 4335  Conservation Biology  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Principles and theories relating to the conservation of biological diversity, including patterns and processes creating biological diversity, estimates of extinction rates, consequences of losses of biodiversity and causes of diversity loss.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 3428.

BIOL 4336  Marine Ecology  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Habitats and community structure in marine environments; biotic and abiotic factors governing the distribution of marine organisms.

BIOL 4340  Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
An introduction to integrative biological study using genome-wide approaches and bioinformatics. The "-omics" technologies (Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics, etc.) will be surveyed for current and potential contributions to understanding biological function at molecular, cellular, organismal and ecosystem levels.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 2416 and 3410 or CHEM 4401.

BIOL 4343  Oceans and Human Health  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Healthy oceans are essential to the habitability of our planet – for humans and all other forms of life. Students will explore links between oceans, pollution, human well-being, ecosystem services, resource management, and the science and legislation governing the enforcement of water quality standards.

BIOL 4350  Research and Design  
1-3 Semester Credit Hours (1-3 Lecture Hours)  
Course will include experimental design, literature review of a research topic and laboratory work on the research topic.

BIOL 4353  Down the River: Biology of Gulf Coast Fishes  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
This course covers aspects of ecology and biogeography of riverine and estuarine fishes while exposing students to field sampling techniques and museum preparation of specimens. This will be a unique opportunity for students to gain an in-depth understanding of the biological complexity of Texas Gulf Coast river systems while gaining hands-on experience in field and museum ichthyological techniques that are employed by state, federal and academic researchers alike.  
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4355  Public Aquarium and Animal Care Operations  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
This course examines the unique requirements needed for public aquariums and zoos to balance animal care and health with public display for general education and conservation research.  
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4370  Mariculture  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Survey of the physiological, behavioral, environmental, and economic parameters governing the culture of selected aquatic species. Included are techniques employed worldwide to produce aquatic products.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.

BIOL 4371  Population Genetics  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
An introduction to evolutionary processes and their genetic basis, this course focuses on theoretical and experimental approaches to the study of population genetics, quantitative genetics, evolutionary ecology, and molecular evolution.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 2416 and MATH 2413.

BIOL 4396  Directed Independent Study  
1-3 Semester Credit Hours (1-3 Lecture Hours)  
Research in areas of current interest. Written report required. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 semester hours.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407 and CHEM 1412.

BIOL 4399  Directed Independent Research  
3-6 Semester Credit Hours (3-6 Lecture Hours)  
Independent laboratory- or field-based research project on topic of current interest. Project developed in conjunction with a faculty advisor. Written report required. May be repeated once for a total of 6 semester credit hours

BIOL 4405  Limnology  
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)  
The study of the functional relationships and productivity of aquatic communities as they are affected by their physical, chemical, and biotic environment. The influence of man's activities on these systems will be the focus of the course.  
Prerequisite: BIOL 3428.  
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.
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BIOL 4406 Immunology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
An overview of immunology with emphasis on current knowledge of the immune system. Detailed examination of the specific cells, cytokines, antibodies, and molecules that comprise the immune system. Laboratory exercises demonstrate the basic principles and techniques used in immunologic studies. Cross listed with BIMS 4406.
Prerequisite: BIOL 2421.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0092.

BIOL 4408 Microbial Diversity and Ecology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Biodiversity and roles of microorganisms in natural environments. Interactions with other micro- and macro-organisms (humans, animals and plants) and with abiotic factors. Unique abilities of microorganisms such as nitrogen fixation and adaptation to extreme environments.
Prerequisite: (BIOL 2421 or 4328).
Co-requisite: SMTE 0092.

BIOL 4410 Mammalogy
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
Systematics and ecology of mammals. Offered in even Fall semesters.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4411 Animal Behavior
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
An understanding of why animals behave in the manner they do, through examination of both invertebrate and vertebrate species.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4413 Entomology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
A broad overview of the natural history, classification, phylogeny, ecology, behavior, development and physiology of insects and their kin. The lab will involve field work, collection and curation.
Prerequisite: BIOL 3413.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4417 Field Biology
4 Semester Credit Hours (1 Lecture Hour, 6 Lab Hours)
is a hands-on course designed to teach students key concepts by immersing them in nature. Topics include adaptations of plants and animals in different habitats, food web interactions, and how biotic and abiotic forces interact to structure natural communities including spatial and temporal variation in communities.
Prerequisite: BIOL 3428.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4422 Plant Taxonomy
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Principles and practice in the classification of flowering plants. Field trips are required.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4425 Ornithology
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
Systematics, anatomy, physiology, ecology, behavior, and field identification of birds. Offered in odd Fall semester.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4429 Marine Botany
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
The ecology of marine plants with emphasis on identification, life histories, and environmental factors of distribution.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4430 Marine Plankton
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
In this class we will investigate the systematics, distribution, and ecology of major marine plankton groups and introduce major concepts in biological oceanography. Offered in Spring of odd-numbered years.

BIOL 4432 Ichthyology
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
Systematics, evolution, biology, and ecology of fishes. Laboratory identification of marine and freshwater fishes collected during field excursions.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4433 Parasitology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
An introduction to parasitology with emphasis on internal parasites and appropriate references to human endoparasites and parasites of veterinary importance.
Prerequisite: BIOL 2421.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0092.

BIOL 4435 Biological Microtechniques
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Theory and techniques of processing specimens for histochemistry and microscopic examination. Laboratory includes preparation of tissues and small specimens for analysis and display.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407 and CHEM 3411.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0092.

BIOL 4442 Herpetology
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Systematics, ecology, and behavior of amphibians and reptiles.
Prerequisite: BIOL 1407.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4444 Estuarine Organisms
4 Semester Credit Hours (4 Lecture Hours)
Systematics, distribution, and ecology of estuarine macrofauna and macroflora. Weekend field trips and individual study required.
Prerequisite: BIOL 3413.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4446 Tropical Ecosystems & Conservation
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 3 Lab Hours)
Survey of the ecology and conservation issues of the major ecosystems in the tropics and field techniques used to study tropical forest ecology.
Prerequisite: BIOL 3428.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.

BIOL 4452 Ecology and Evolution of Fishes
4 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 4 Lab Hours)
This course covers aspects of fish ecology from individual, population, community, and ecosystem levels. We discuss the role of the environment on fish physiology and behavior, food-web dynamics, community assembly and diversity, ecosystem interactions, and anthropogenic impacts on fishes with a focus on conservation.
Prerequisite: BIOL 4432.
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.
BIOL 4547  Marine Science Field Camp  
5 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 6 Lab Hours)  
Students learn techniques required to properly conduct marine science field research. Practical, hands-on experience is gained in a variety of topics including biotic and abiotic sample collection and processing, quantitative analysis of field data, evaluation of environmental factors, survival and distribution of living organisms, and the structure of biotic communities.

BIOL 4590  Selected Topics  
5 Semester Credit Hours (5 Lecture Hours)  
Variable content. May be repeated for credit.

BIOL 4598  Biology Internship  
2-6 Semester Credit Hours  
Two to six semester credit hours may be earned by working in an internship position in a governmental agency, private industry, or other appropriate venue.

BIOL 4609  Field and Sampling Techniques  
3,9 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours, 6 Lab Hours)  
The study of techniques required for proper field work in the biological sciences. The course includes ecological sampling methods, safety, logistics, equipment operation and maintenance and travel concerns.  
Co-requisite: SMTE 0091.