Are you a transfer student interested in majoring in biology while at UNC Chapel Hill? Here are a few helpful tips:

**General information about the Biology Program**
(UNC-Chapel Hill Undergraduate Bulletin, 2016)
Biology is the study of life from both basic and applied perspectives across a broad range of analytical levels, from the molecule and cell to the organism and ecosystem. The major in biology provides a broad education directed toward an appreciation of the complexity of nature, and prepares students for careers in the biological, environmental, and medical sciences. Departmental majors gain a firm foundation in essential areas of biology through the core curriculum and have ample choices for study in various specialized subjects. A quantitative biology track in the BS major provides training in interdisciplinary computational approaches to studying biological questions. There are many opportunities for mentored undergraduate research and internships.

**Careers and Skills // A major in biology will prepare you for a variety of careers.**
The BS and BA majors in biology prepare students for a variety careers including health professions (e.g., medical, dental, and veterinary), fieldwork, research, or teaching. Students might work at institutions of higher education, government, or in private industry. Opportunities range from work in horticulture or landscaping to research on the frontiers of medicine and technology. Those with an interest in writing may pursue a career in science writing; alternatively, those with an interest in math are able to pursue a career in biological economics or biostatistics. A biology degree will help you to develop highly sought skills for many jobs, including the ability to solve complex problems, analyze data, and consider multiple aspects of decisions.

**Does it matter if I get a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts?**
For entry into most career tracks, what matters most are the courses taken, grades earned, and pertinent experiences (e.g. service learning, undergraduate research, or post-baccalaureate work), not necessarily the degree earned. It is an individual decision to select a BA or a BS; however, we strongly recommend that transfer students consider the time it will take to complete their degree prior to transferring to UNC. We also recommend that new transfer students take no more than two science and math courses during their first semester at UNC. As it is often challenging to fit all the requirements for a BS into the time allotted to transfer students, all students interested in pursuing a BS in biology should contact Academic Advising as soon as they matriculate to discuss their options and schedule.
Transfer QuickGuide

Biology at UNC

Major Requirements // If you plan to transfer with junior status and graduate with a BA or BS from UNC, we recommend completing these courses prior to transfer.

To pursue either the BA or BS complete:
- BIOL 101 & 101 – Lab Principles of Biology
- BIOL 279 & 279 – Lab Organismal Biology (or a biology elective w/lab, transferred as 290/L)
- CHEM 101 & 101L – Lab General Descriptive Chemistry I
- CHEM 102 & 102L – Lab General Descriptive Chemistry II
- MATH 130, STOR 155 or MATH 231 – Pre-calculus Mathematics/Introduction to Statistics/ Calculus of Functions of One Variable I

If you wish to pursue a BS, try also to complete the following:
- MATH 231 – Calculus of Functions of One Variable I
- At least one (preferably both) of the following:
  - CHEM 261 & 261L – Introduction to Organic Chemistry I
  - CHEM 262 & 262L – Introduction to Organic Chemistry II

In addition to the above courses, by the time you graduate from UNC you will need to take the following courses: (Students may transfer a few courses from the 2nd list in addition or instead of those from the 1st.)

To pursue the BA, complete:
Six biology courses beyond BIOL 101 Principles of Biology:
- BIOL 201 – Ecology and Evolution
- BIOL 202 – Molecular Biology and Genetics
- BIOL 205 – Cellular and Developmental Biology
- Three electives, at least one with a lab, and one must be >400
- Four allied science electives in addition to general education requirements*

To pursue a BS, you must also complete:
- CHEM 241 & 241L – Modern Analytical Methods for Separation and Characterization
- PHYS 114 – General Physics I: For Students in the Life Sciences
- PHYS 115 – General Physics II: For Students in the Life Sciences
- One additional biology (total would be 2 electives with labs and 2 >400)
- *For the BS, you only need 2 allied science electives
Transfer QuickGuide

Biology at UNC

Please note: If you decide to major in biology, schedule an appointment to meet with the department’s undergraduate faculty advisor, Gidi Shemer, via email at: bishemer@email.unc.edu. You can also connect with Summer Montgomery, the student services manager, at: undergrad@bio.unc.edu. Keep in mind that many of these courses may have prerequisites, so course sequencing is important to consider.

Why major in Biology at UNC?
Study fascinating questions about how life works, human health, and nature!

“Our department is considered to be a premiere department in one of the most highly ranked public universities in the nation. It was formed in 1980 by the merger of the Departments of Zoology and Botany and thus includes a remarkable diversity of disciplines in the Biological Sciences. As undergraduates, you will have the opportunity to learn from some of the top scholars in virtually any field of biology, not only in the classroom, but in the field and in the laboratory as well.” — Professor and Chair, Victoria L. Bautch

“The biology curriculum at UNC is both exciting and challenging. It prepares you to be one of the best among the brightest students in the nation.”
— Amaya Martinez, Transfer Student, 2016

“UNC Biology has endless resources to help student succeed. Biology students that excel at Carolina are the ones that take advantage of all the help and opportunities given to us. Get involved! There are many ways to find an internship, do undergraduate research, or even just get help on your homework in the Bio department.”
— Amanda Ponce, Transfer Student, 2016

Important Links
If you are a prospective transfer student and have additional questions about majoring in biology at UNC, please refer to one of the links below or contact the UNC admissions office (admissions.unc.edu/contact-us/).

Biology Department Homepage: bio.unc.edu/undergraduate/
Undergraduate Bulletin: unc.edu/ugradbulletin/depts/biol.html
Resources for Student Success: studentsuccess.unc.edu
Transfer Resources: transfers.unc.edu
Summer School at UNC: summer.unc.edu
What Can I Do with This Major? careers.unc.edu/students/explore-majors-and-careers
Will my courses transfer? admissions.unc.edu/credit/credit/transfer-equivalencies/