Are you a transfer student interested in majoring in Biology (B.A.) while at UNC Chapel Hill? Here are a few helpful tips:

General information about the Biology (B.A.) Program
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. Departmental majors gain a firm foundation in essential areas of biology through the core curriculum and have ample opportunity to specialize in animal behavior, biomechanics, botany, cell biology, developmental biology, ecology, evolutionary biology, genetics, genomics, marine biology, microbiology, molecular biology, neurobiology, organismal biology, physiology, and plant biology. There are many opportunities for mentored undergraduate research and internships. (UNC-Chapel Hill Undergraduate Bulletin, 2012-2013)

Careers and Skills // There are a variety of careers that a major in biology will prepare you for.
A degree in biology provides access to many opportunities ranging from work in horticulture or landscaping to research on the frontiers of medicine and technology. A degree in biology can prepare you to work with students as an instructor in a high-school biology classroom or to develop new technologies for use in business, medical, and agricultural settings. Those with an interest in writing may choose to 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 after for any workplace, including: the ability to solve complex problems, analyze data, and consider multiple aspects of policies and decisions.

Major Requirements // If you plan to transfer with junior status and graduate two years after transferring to UNC, these are courses that we recommend be completed prior to transfer.

- BIOL 101 & 101 Lab (Principles of Biology)
- BIOL 279 & 279 Lab (Organismal)
- CHEM 101 & 101 Lab (General Descriptive Chemistry I)
- CHEM 102 & 102 Lab (General Descriptive Chemistry II)
- MATH 130 (Precalculus Mathematics)
- MATH 231 (Calculus of Functions of One Variable I) or STOR 155 (Introduction to Statistics)

Major Courses: The following required courses should be taken at UNC.

- 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 1 with a lab, and 1 must be >400)

Additional major requirements:
- Four allied science electives in addition to general education requirements
Does it matter if I get a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts?

What matters are the courses taken, grades earned and pertinent experiences (e.g. service learning and undergraduate research). It is an individual decision to select a B.A. or a B.S.; however, we strongly recommend that transfer students consider the time it will take to complete the 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. Should you accept admission to Carolina, you will discuss your interests and goals with your Academic Advisor.

Why major in Biology at UNC?

“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

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 Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 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/explore/academics/credit-for-outside-coursework/transferring-your-courses/

You can also connect with the Biology Department on Facebook (UNC Biology Undergrads), online at bio.unc.edu, or with the department's undergraduate advisor via email at bishemer@email.unc.edu.