

ACADEMIC ALERT #2002-8

DATE: April 12, 2002

DECISION: Announcement of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Biology

The College of Arts and Sciences now offers a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Biology. This program prepares students for graduate study leading to careers in health professions, environmental professions, biological research, or secondary school biology teaching. The biology program is designed to provide students with a well-rounded knowledge of fundamental concepts and research techniques at the ecosystem, organismal, physiological, and molecular levels.

Biology majors wishing to prepare for careers teaching High School biology should take courses designated for secondary education students. This curriculum is designed to provide the content courses required for admission to Masters degree programs in secondary education at Illinois universities and colleges. Undergraduate students who complete a major in Biology will receive automatic acceptance into the Secondary Education Master of Arts in Teaching Program in the National College of Education, provided they meet all current admission requirements. (a 3.0 G.P.A. in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of undergraduate courses, a 2.5 G.P.A. in content area courses, a score of 33 on the Miller Analogies Test, and a pass on the Basic Skills Test). Students completing the pre-secondary education curriculum will satisfy the standards for Biology Designation recommended by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Requirements for a B.A. in Biology are as follows:

1. Completion of 50 quarter hours of biology coursework with a grade of C or better (5 required biology courses plus 5 biology electives). Twenty-five of these 50 hours must be upper level (300 or higher) and a minimum of 15 of the 25 upper level quarter hours must be taken at National-Louis University.
2. Completion of 37 quarter hours of required courses in mathematics, physics, and chemistry.
3. Completion of the general education core, which consists of courses totaling 69 quarter hours. Biology majors may apply any three (15QH) of their required or elective science courses towards fulfillment of the 69 QH general education requirement. These three science courses will also count towards fulfillment of requirements for the Biology major.
4. To reach the 180 quarter hours required for graduation, students must complete an additional 39 quarter hours of free electives.

Detailed information on this program will be included in the 2002-2004 Undergraduate Catalog.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately

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