

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY TRANSFER
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA/UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DONALD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UPDATED: April 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the Academic Calendar of your goal institution for admission requirements to their program

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

UALBERTA OFFERS MULTIPLE WAYS TO EARN A BSC BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DEGREE: WHAT ARE THESE AND WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

For many programs offered by the Faculty of Science at UAlberta, there are three ways to complete a degree. In most cases, the major differences in these routes start to become noticeable at year 3.

- *Honors* – This route typically requires students to maintain a specific course load and GPA to be eligible. Students primarily focus in their major during all years of study and engage in a Directed Research Project during years 3 and 4.
- *Specialization* – This route also typically requires students to maintain a specific course load and GPA to be eligible. Students primarily focus in their major during all years of study, but not engage in a Directed Research Project.
- *General* – This route requires students to complete both a Major and a Minor. Overall, students will explore courses in a broader range of disciplines than compared to an Honors/Specialization program.

For more information on these routes, please visit the [UA Biological Sciences website](#).

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- **Fall** term (September through December)
- **Winter** term (January through April)
- **Spring** term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- **Summer** term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- The maximum number of courses you can take in the Fall or Winter terms is 5 courses and 2 courses in the Spring (optional).
- To complete your program in four years, you would need to take the maximum number of courses per term (5 courses in the Fall and 5 courses in the Winter), or 10 course per year. Some students will complete 10 courses in a year by taking 4 courses in the Fall, 4 courses in the Winter, and 2 courses in the Spring (or a combination thereof).
- For students who are working towards an “Honors” or “Specialization” program at UAlberta, it is recommended to maintain a minimum course load of 24 credits during the Fall/Winter terms. All in all, proceed at a course load that works best for you.
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE LESS THAN THE RECOMMENDED COURSE LOAD?

- You may need an extra term or year to complete your program.
- May impact admission to an Honors or Specialization program at UAlberta.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Once admitted to RDP you can complete an [RPL application form](#), provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your PLAR application.

- **NOTE:** To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA - SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE

YEAR 1 RECOMMENDATIONS - UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

FIRST TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 217	Can be taken either term	
CHEM 211		
MATH/STAT Requirement	see Important Note 2 below	
Arts Elective (ENGL 219 recommended)	see Important Note 3 below	
Arts or Science Elective		
SECOND TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 218	can be taken either term	
CHEM 351	see Important Note 1 below	
MATH/STAT Requirement	see Important Note 2 below	
CHEM 212 or Science Elective	see Important Notes 1 and 3 below	
Arts or Science Elective		

YEAR 2 RECOMMENDATIONS - UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

At RDP, our courses best fit into the following programs Biological Sciences majors at UAlberta.

- [Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology](#)
- [Integrative Physiology](#)
- [Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology](#)

You can follow the above links to access program information and full program planners from UAlberta. Student's applying into an honors or specialization program should strive to complete **at least 24 credits** over their Fall and Winter term.

ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

THIRD TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 317	can be taken either term	
BIOL 352		
Science Elective (i.e. BIOL 301 or other Science course)	see Important Note 3 below	
Arts or Science Elective	see Important Note 3 below	
Arts or Science Elective	see Important Note 3 below	
FOURTH TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 318	can be taken either term	
BIOL 370		
BIOL 351		
Science Elective (i.e. BIOL 360 or other Science course)	see Important Note 3 below	
Arts or Science Elective	see Important Note 3 below	

INTEGRATIVE PHYSIOLOGY

THIRD TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 317	can be taken either term	
BIOL 352		
BIOL 301		
Arts or Science Elective		
Arts or Science Elective		
FOURTH TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 318	can be taken either term	
BIOL 351		
BIOC 301 or 393	see Important Note 4 below	
BIOL 360 or BIOL 370		
Arts or Science Elective		

MOLECULAR, CELLULAR, & DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

THIRD TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 317	can be taken either term	
CHEM 351 (if not completed Year 1) or CHEM 352		
BIOL 301		
BIOL 352 or Art/Science Elective		
Arts or Science Elective		
FOURTH TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 318	can be taken either term	
CHEM 352 (if not previously completed) or Art/Science Elective	see Important Note 3 below	
BIOC 301 or 393	see Important Note 4 below	
BIOL 360		
BIOL 370		

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Take CHEM 211 before CHEM 351 (CHEM 351 has a pre-req of CHEM 211). CHEM 351 is a required course for a Biological Sciences degree at the U of A and completing CHEM 351 in year 1 can offer students more versatility in course scheduling for their second year; however, **this course can also be taken in a student's second year**. As such, students can choose to complete CHEM 351 in their first or second year of study.

For students considering taking CHEM 212 in year 1: CHEM 212 is required for students planning to major in "Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology". Completing CHEM 351 and CHEM 212 in year 1 can offer students more versatility in course scheduling in their second year, however taking these courses concurrently in Winter term can also create a heavier schedule. CHEM 212 and CHEM 351 are also available in the Spring term. Students wishing to lighten their first-year course load can take one of CHEM 212/351 in the Winter term of Year 1, and then take the other course in the Spring term of Year 1, or complete in Year 2.

2. UAlberta students need to complete STAT 251 and one MATH course as part of degree requirements. If completing MATH courses at RDP, choose one of MATH 202/203 (calculus) or MATH 221 (algebra). *Students with mark of 70% or greater in Math 31 can take Math 203.*
3. It is recommended students complete one introductory English course as one of the options (ENGL 219). Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed [here](#). Remember to make sure the electives you choose [transfer to your destination institution](#).
 - PSYC 260 and ASTR 205 are science options that do not require a lab
 - Do not take more than 6 courses (18 credits) in Arts Options during your 2 years at RDP.
4. BIOC 301 and BIOC 393 both transfer to the UAlberta as the same course (U of A BIOCH 200). Students can take either course at RDP: Both courses are essentially the same except BIOC 393 has a lab while BIOC 301 does not. Pay attention to the pre-requisites for this course: BOTH CHEM 211 and CHEM 351 must be completed prior to taking BIOC 301 or 393.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY - SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE

YEAR 1 RECOMMENDATIONS - UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FIRST TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 217	see Important Note 1 below	
CHEM 211	see Important Notes 2 and 3 below	
MATH Requirement	see Important Note 4 below	
Arts or Science Elective		
Arts Elective		
SECOND TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 218	see Important Note 1 below	
CHEM 212	see Important Notes 2 and 3 below	
MATH Requirement	see Important Note 4 below	
Arts or Science Elective		
Arts Elective		

YEAR 2 RECOMMENDATIONS - UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The University of Calgary offers six specific programs that students can major in while completing a Biological Sciences degree at the undergraduate level. These areas are:

Biochemistry	Biological Sciences
Cellular, Molecular & Microbial Biology (CMMB)	Ecology
Plant Biology	Zoology

To learn more about these programs, visit the University of Calgary Biological Sciences homepage: <http://www.bio.ucalgary.ca/>

THIRD TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 317		
BIOL 301		
CHEM 351 (if not completed Year 1) or Arts/Science Elective	see Important Notes 2 and 3 below	
BIOL 352 or Arts/Science Elective		
Arts or Science Elective		
FOURTH TERM		
COURSE	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 318 or Elective (318 not required for Biochemistry, CMMB majors)		
BIOC 393		
CHEM 352	see Important Notes 2 and 3 below	
BIOL 360 or BIOL 370 or Arts or Science Elective		
BIOL 360 or BIOL 370 or Arts or Science Elective		

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. It is highly recommended students complete both BIOL 217 and BIOL 218 prior to transferring to UCalgary. Completion of both of these courses will cover the requirements for UCalgary Introductory Biology courses (BIOL 241 & 243). Students who take only one of RDP's BIOL 217 or 218 while at RDP, will need to complete both U of C's BIOL 241 & 243 upon transfer.
2. All UCalgary bound students majoring in Biological Sciences are highly recommended to complete 4 specific Chemistry courses prior to transfer (the RDP equivalents are CHEM 211, CHEM 212, CHEM 351 & CHEM 352).
 - a. Some students choose to complete CHEM 351 and CHEM 212 in the Winter term of year 1. Completing CHEM 351 and CHEM 212 in year 1 can offer students more versatility in course scheduling in their second year, however taking these courses concurrently in Winter term can also create a heavier schedule. CHEM 212 and CHEM 351 may also be available in the Spring term. Students wishing to lighten their first-year course load can take one of CHEM 212/351 in the Winter term of Year 1, and then take the other course in the Spring term of Year 1, or complete in Year 2.
3. It is highly recommended students complete both RDP's CHEM 351 and CHEM 352 prior to transferring to UCalgary in order to obtain full credit. UCalgary's Organic Chemistry courses are called CHEM 351 and CHEM 353. In order to receive appropriate transfer credit for UCalgary's CHEM 351/353, students must complete and transfer both RDP's CHEM 351 and CHEM 352. Students who transfer with only CHEM 351 completed will still need to complete both UCalgary's CHEM 351 and 353 upon transfer. *If you plan to transfer after year 1, do not take RDP CHEM 351 at RDP as you won't be able to complete RDP CHEM 352 in your first year.*
4. UCalgary Biological Sciences students will need to complete 6 credits (2 courses) in Math. To complete this requirement at RDP, students can take Math 202 or 203 (calculus) and MATH 221 (algebra). *Students with mark of 70% or greater in Math 31 can take Math 203.*

Examples of available Arts & Science **Electives** for the current academic year can be viewed [here](#).

- All U of C BSc Biological Sciences students take 6 credits (2 courses) in the area of Physics, Geology, or Computer Science. RDP offers PHYS 205/226. RDP does not have the specific Computer Science or Geology courses to fulfill this requirement. *However, this requirement does not need to be completed prior to transferring to the U of C.* Students pursuing a major in **Biochemistry MUST complete six credits of Physics** in their degree.

ARTS OR SCIENCE ELECTIVE

Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed [here](#)

TRANSFER INFORMATION

Make sure the courses you take are transferable to your goal institution using [Transfer Alberta](#).

	University of Alberta	University of Calgary
Transfer Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transfer up to 60 credits ➤ Recommended max of 18 credits in Arts electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transfer up to 60 credits
Applying for Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deadline typically March 1. Consult U of A timelines. ➤ Apply to U of A here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deadline typically March 1. Consult U of C timelines. ➤ Apply to U of C here.
Honors and Specialization GPA	<p>It is recommended students complete a course load of at least 24 credits over Fall and Winter terms. For GPA requirements, please click here. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee entry.</p>	<p>Honors, Specialization and General programs are UAlberta programs. You can see projected GPAs for UCalgary programs here.</p> <p>Students can choose “Natural Sciences” as a second option for UCalgary.</p>
How Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) calculated	<p>Calculated on all university transferable coursework completed in the most recent two terms of study if they contain a minimum of 24 credits. If those two terms contain less than 24 credits, all work in the next most recent term(s) is included in the calculation until the minimum total of 24 credits is reached. Fall/Winter courses are considered Winter courses in these calculations. For applicants who have attempted less than 24 credits of transferable postsecondary work, the AGPA is based on all university or university transfer credits attempted.</p> <p>Note: Where the applicant has more than one passing grade for the same course at any institution, only the first passing grade is used in calculating the grade point average(s) for admission purposes.</p> <p>For more information on transfer, please consult the University of Alberta Calendar.</p>	<p>Will be calculated using the most recent course work to a maximum of 30 units, unless otherwise specified by the faculty. All courses attempted within a term will be included except where the number of courses taken within a term results in the overall number of units exceeding 30 units. Should this occur, the highest grades from the oldest term being considered will be used to calculate the GPA. In some faculties prerequisite courses will be included first. Grades in high school equivalent courses offered by post-secondary institutions will not be used in determining the transfer admission GPA. For more information on transfer, please consult the University of Calgary Calendar.</p>
Minimum Transferable Grade	<p>A minimum grade of C- must be achieved in order for course credit to be transferable. While courses with grades of D or F will not transfer, they remain on your transcript and will be used in calculation of your GPA. <i>Please talk to an Academic Advisor as soon as possible if you feel you may be in jeopardy of not getting a C- in a course you are enrolled in.</i></p>	<p>A minimum grade of C- is recommended to maximize transferability (“D” grades may transfer, depending on the circumstance). <i>Please talk to an Academic Advisor as soon as possible if you feel you may be in jeopardy of not getting at least a C- in a course you are enrolled in.</i></p>

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca• www.rdpolytech.ca/advising• 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca
University of Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Email: biougrad@ualberta.ca
University of Calgary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Email: science.advising@ucalgary.ca