

# BOTANY, B.A.

The Department of Botany provides an introduction to the living world: the diversity of its organisms; its historical origins through evolution; its principles of structure, function, and ecology; and its interactions, relationships, and effects on the nonliving world. Botany is the science of plants, algae, fungi, and bacteria—all living organisms except animals. Green plants and algae provide the photosynthetic energy for fueling all other life on earth and drive global water and carbon cycles. Fungi and bacteria are the fundamental recyclers of the earth.

The study of botany provides a broad background in the principles of modern biology and gives a solid foundation for careers in environmental studies, conservation biology, ecology, systematics, evolution, genetics, physiology, biotechnology, agriculture, and horticulture. Jobs requiring such preparation include teaching in secondary schools and colleges, research and development in industry and medicine, stewardship of our natural world through private and governmental programs, and research and teaching in academia.

## HOW TO GET IN

Prospective Botany majors should consult with the general undergraduate botany advisor by the beginning of the junior year to outline a course of study appropriate to the student's needs. Major Declaration may occur by meeting with the undergraduate advisor in the major.

To be accepted as a major in Botany, a student must have a grade point average of 2.500 for all science courses taken prior to declaration.

## REQUIREMENTS

### UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the *Guide*.

#### General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B \*
- Ethnic Studies \*
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B \*

\* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

## COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Mathematics** Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

**Foreign Language**

- Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
- Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.

**L&S Breadth**

- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

**Liberal Arts and Science Coursework** Complete at least 108 credits.

**Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work** Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.

**Major** Declare and complete at least one major.

**Total Credits** Complete at least 120 credits.

**UW-Madison Experience**

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

**Quality of Work**

- 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
- 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

## NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR MATH, CHEMISTRY, AND PHYSICS

| Code   | Title   | Credits      |
|--|---|--------------|
| <b>Statistics/Mathematics (One course from the following):<sup>1</sup></b> |   |              |
| STAT 301   | Introduction to Statistical Methods                   | 3            |
| STAT 302   | Accelerated Introduction to Statistical Methods       |              |
| STAT 324   | Introductory Applied Statistics for Engineers         |              |
| STAT 371   | Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences |              |
| <b>General Chemistry (One of the following):<sup>2</sup></b>               |   |              |
| CHEM 103 & CHEM 104  |   | 5-9          |
| CHEM 115 & CHEM 116  |   |              |
| CHEM 109   |   |              |
| <b>Organic Chemistry<sup>3</sup></b>                                       |   |              |
| CHEM 341 or CHEM 343   |   | 3            |
| <b>Physics (One course from the following):<sup>4</sup></b>                |   |              |
| PHYSICS 115  |   | 3-5          |
| PHYSICS 103  |   |              |
| PHYSICS 104  |   |              |
| PHYSICS 201  |   |              |
| PHYSICS 202  |   |              |
| PHYSICS 207  |   |              |
| PHYSICS 208  |   |              |
| PHYSICS 247  |   |              |
| PHYSICS 248  |   |              |
| PHYSICS 249  |   |              |
| <b>Total Credits</b>   |   | <b>14-20</b> |

1

STAT 371, MATH 211 or MATH 221 are strongly recommended for students preparing for graduate school, as these usually are required for entry into post-undergraduate programs.

2

CHEM 109 is the best option for chemistry if only one course is to be taken. However, for students who are preparing for graduate school, and depending on their post graduate goals (CHEM 103-CHEM 104 OR CHEM 115-CHEM 116) is strongly recommended as some graduate programs may require a sequence of organic chemistry courses.

3

CHEM 341 is the best option for organic chemistry if only one course is to be taken. However, for students who are preparing for graduate school, the three-course organic chemistry sequence (CHEM 343-CHEM 344-CHEM 345) is strongly recommended instead of CHEM 341, as some graduate programs may require a sequence of organic chemistry courses.

4

PHYSICS 115 is the best choice if one course is to be taken. It is recommended that two semesters of PHYSICS be taken (PHYSICS 103-PHYSICS 104 or PHYSICS 201-PHYSICS 202 or PHYSICS 207-PHYSICS 208).

## BIOLOGY AND BOTANY REQUIREMENTS

30 credits from:

| Code   | Title                                       | Credits |  |
|--|---|---------|--|
| <b>Introductory Biology (Complete one option):</b> |   |         |  |
| <i>Option A, Recommended</i>                       |   |         |  |
| BOTANY/<br>BIOLOGY 130                             | General Botany <sup>1</sup>                 | 5-10    |  |
| <i>Option B: Introductory Biology</i>              |   |         |  |
| BOTANY/<br>BIOLOGY/<br>ZOOLOGY 151                 | Introductory Biology                        |         |  |
| BOTANY/<br>BIOLOGY/<br>ZOOLOGY 152                 | Introductory Biology                        |         |  |
| <i>Option C: BIOCORE</i>                           |   |         |  |
| BIOCORE 381  | Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics            |         |  |
| BIOCORE 382  | Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics Laboratory |         |  |
| BIOCORE 383  | Cellular Biology                            |         |  |
| BIOCORE 384  | Cellular Biology Laboratory                 |         |  |
| BIOCORE 485  | Principles of Physiology                    |         |  |

| Code  | Title | Credits |
|---|-------|---------|
| <b>Botany Distribution - Five courses, to include at least one course in these areas:</b> |       |         |

*Cell, Molecular, Physiology (1 course required):*

BOTANY 300 Plant Anatomy  
or BOTANY 500 Plant Physiology

*Ecology (1 course required):*

BOTANY/  
F&W ECOL 455 The Vegetation of Wisconsin  
or BOTANY/  
F&W ECOL/  
ZOOLOGY 460 General Ecology

*Genetics, Evolution (1 course required):<sup>2</sup>*

BOTANY/  
ANTHRO/  
ZOOLOGY 410 Evolutionary Biology

AGRONOMY/  
HORT 338 Plant Breeding and Biotechnology

GENETICS 466 Principles of Genetics<sup>2</sup>

GENETICS 467 General Genetics 1

|  |  |
|--|--|
| GENETICS 468   | General Genetics 2   |
| <i>Diversity</i>   |  |
| BOTANY 305   | Plant Morphology and Evolution                               |
| BOTANY 330   | Algae  |
| BOTANY/<br>PL PATH 332   | Fungi  |
| BOTANY 400   | Plant Systematics  |
| BOTANY 401   | Vascular Flora of Wisconsin                                  |
| <i>Optionally, 1 of the 5 required courses may come from this list, or students may take a second course from any area listed above:</i> |  |
| BOTANY/<br>GEOG 338  | Environmental Biogeography                                   |
| BOTANY/<br>AGRONOMY/<br>HORT 339   | Plant Biotechnology: Principles and Techniques I             |
| BOTANY/<br>AGRONOMY/<br>SOIL SCI 370   | Grassland Ecology  |
| BOTANY/<br>F&W ECOL 402  | Dendrology   |
| BOTANY 403   | Field Collections and Identification                         |
| BOTANY 422   | Plant Geography  |
| BOTANY/<br>ZOOLOGY 450   | Midwestern Ecological Issues: A Case Study Approach          |
| BOTANY/<br>ENTOM/<br>ZOOLOGY 473   | Plant-Insect Interactions                                    |
| BOTANY/<br>AMER IND/<br>ANTHRO 474   | Ethnobotany  |
| BOTANY/<br>ENTOM/<br>PL PATH 505   | Plant-Microbe Interactions: Molecular and Ecological Aspects |
| BOTANY/<br>PL PATH 563   | Phylogenetic Analysis of Molecular Data                      |
| BOTANY/<br>BIOCHEM 621   | Plant Biochemistry   |
| BOTANY/<br>ENVIR ST/<br>F&W ECOL/<br>ZOOLOGY 651   | Conservation Biology   |
| BIOCHEM 501  | Introduction to Biochemistry                                 |
| BIOCORE 486  | Principles of Physiology Laboratory                          |
| BIOCORE 587  | Biological Interactions                                      |
| F&W ECOL 415   | Tree Physiology  |
| MICROBIO 303   | Biology of Microorganisms                                    |
| ZOOLOGY 570  | Cell Biology   |

| Code  | Title                           | Credits |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Independent Research Experience—choose one:</b> <sup>3</sup> |                                 |         |
| BOTANY 691<br>& BOTANY 692                                      | Senior Thesis and Senior Thesis | 4       |

|                            |   |     |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| BOTANY 681<br>& BOTANY 682 | Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis | 6   |
| BOTANY 699                 | Directed Study                                | 3-4 |

1

In addition to BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130, ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 101 and/or ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 102 will count towards 30 credits of Botany major.

2

Completion of the BIOCORE sequence also satisfies the Genetics, Evolution area (BIOCORE 381 & BIOCORE 382 & BIOCORE 383 & BIOCORE 384 & BIOCORE 485).

3

Students nearing completion of the major should seek out research opportunities with their advisor or faculty supervisor, and register for their project at the end of the junior year.

## RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

2.000 GPA in all BOTANY and major courses

2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence <sup>1</sup>

15 credits in BOTANY, taken on the UW–Madison campus

1

BOTANY 300–699 are considered upper level.

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Botany Major in consultation with the Botany undergraduate advisor.

### HONORS IN THE MAJOR IN BOTANY: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Botany, students must satisfy the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

3.300 University GPA

3.400 GPA in all BOTANY and major courses

Complete a Senior Honors Thesis in BOTANY 681 & BOTANY 682, for a total of 6 credits

12 additional credits in Intermediate/Advanced level BOTANY, taken for Honors <sup>1</sup>

1

Excluding BOTANY 681 and BOTANY 682.

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

**Residency** Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

**Quality of Work** Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Acquire and demonstrate foundational understanding of the basic properties of plant life from the subcellular to the ecosystem level of organization.
2. Acquire and demonstrate basic understanding in chemistry, physics, and mathematics to interpret biological phenomena.
3. Acquire and demonstrate detailed knowledge in at least five of these core areas of plant biology: Genetics, Physiology, Structural biology, Ecology, Systematics, Evolution, Cryptogamic biology.
4. Explore these core areas in the context of the laboratory and/or the field.
5. Engage in plant biology research (to include algae, photosynthetic bacteria, and fungi): develop hypotheses, acquire scientific information, and interpret results in the context of the historical scientific literature in one or more specialized botanical subdisciplines.
6. Develop an appreciation of communicating scientific information, especially in written form.

## FOUR-YEAR PLAN

### SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

#### First Year

| Fall   | Credits   | Spring                          | Credits   |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| CHEM 103 or 109 <sup>1</sup>                       | 4-5       | CHEM 104                        | 5         |
| MATH 221 or 211                                    | 5         | STAT 301 or 371                 | 3         |
| Foreign Language                                   | 3-4       | Communications B or L&S Breadth | 3         |
| Communications A (complete during your first year) | 3         | Elective or L&S Breadth         | 3         |
|  | <b>15</b> |                                 | <b>14</b> |

#### Second Year

| Fall  | Credits   | Spring                                    | Credits   |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| CHEM 343 <sup>2</sup>                                       | 3         | CHEM 344                                  | 2         |
| Introductory Biology (select one of the following options): | 5         | CHEM 345 <sup>2</sup>                     | 3         |
| BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130  |           | Ethnic Studies                            | 3         |
| BIOLOGY/BOTANY/ZOOLOGY 151                                  |           | Introductory Biology                      | 5         |
| BIOCORE 381 & BIOCORE 382                                   |           | BIOLOGY/BOTANY/ZOOLOGY 152                |           |
| L&S Breadth   | 3-5       | BIOCORE 383 & BIOCORE 384                 |           |
| Elective  | 3         | BIOLOGY/ZOOLOGY 101 & BIOLOGY/ZOOLOGY 102 |           |
|   |           | Elective                                  | 3         |
|   | <b>14</b> |   | <b>16</b> |

#### Third Year

| Fall   | Credits   | Spring   | Credits   |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| PHYSICS 115, 103, 201, or 207  | 5         | PHYSICS 104, 202, or 208 <sup>2</sup>                                  | 4         |
| BIOCORE 485 & BIOCORE 486  | 5         | Botany Breadth (I/A) Course(s) or L&S Breadth Course(s) or Elective(s) | 12        |
| Botany Breadth course (I/A)  | 3-6       |  |           |
| Botany Breadth (I/A) Course(s) or L&S Breadth Course(s) or Elective(s) | 3         |  |           |
|  | <b>17</b> |  | <b>16</b> |

#### Fourth Year

| Fall   | Credits   | Spring   | Credits   |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| BOTANY 691, 681, or 699 (Botany Major Capstone)                        | 2-3       | BOTANY 692 or 682 (Botany Capstone)                                    | 3         |
| Botany Breadth (I/A) Course(s) or L&S Breadth Course(s) or Elective(s) | 11        | Botany Breadth (I/A) Course(s) or L&S Breadth Course(s) or Elective(s) | 11        |
|  | <b>14</b> |  | <b>14</b> |

#### Total Credits 120

- 1 Chemistry sequence 103-104 recommended
- 2 Organic Chemistry full sequence 343-344-345 recommended

## ADVISING AND CAREERS

### ADVISING

Students can find information about declaring the major at declaration and advising (<https://botany.wisc.edu/undergraduate-study/declaration-and-advising/>).

The Department of Botany encourages our majors to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after arriving on campus. We partner with SuccessWorks in the College of Letters & Science. L&S graduates are in high demand by employers and graduate programs. It is important to us that our students are career ready at the time of graduation, and we are committed to your success.

### L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
  - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
  - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
  - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)

## PEOPLE

Professors Ane, Baum, Cameron, Emshwiller, Gilroy, Givnish, Hotchkiss, Maeda, Otegui, Spalding, Sytsma (chair)

Associate Professor McCulloh

Assistant Professors Keefover-Ring