In the heart of the Salish Sea, Western is in an ideal location for undergraduates studying marine sciences. The Biology – Marine Emphasis major provides a thorough introduction to the basic areas of biology and supporting sciences while allowing specialization in marine biology. Students explore the structure and function of marine organisms and their relationship with the environment. A highlight for most students in this emphasis is the opportunity to enroll in courses taught at Western’s Shannon Point Marine Center located in Anacortes, WA (about an hour from Bellingham). These all-day courses give students the opportunity to delve deeply into marine ecology and algal diversity, and include boat-based research and trips to nearby islands.
### SAMPLE FIRST YEAR SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALEKS Score:</th>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>WINTER</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior completion of Calc. 1</td>
<td>BIOL 204, CHEM 161, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 205, CHEM 162, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 206, CHEM 163, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>MATH 124, CHEM 161, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 204, CHEM 162, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 205, CHEM 163, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
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<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>MATH 118, CHEM 161, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 124, CHEM 162, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>BIOL 204, CHEM 163, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>MATH 114, 7-10 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 115, CHEM 161, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 124, CHEM 162, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>MATH 112, 7-10 credits of non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 114, 7-10 credits of non-science GURs</td>
<td>MATH 115, CHEM 161, 3-5 cr. non-science GURs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE LOAD**

Due to the heavy workload associated with lab-based courses, students are advised to take no more than two science courses per quarter (including math) during their first year. Course load will increase as students move through their program requirements.

### APPLYING TO THE BIOLOGY MAJOR

To become a Biology Major and take upper-division Biology courses, students must complete the Biology Major Application. The application covers three areas:

- Responses to the four essay prompts
- A Knowledge Assessment score
- A cumulative grade-point average (GPA) for BIOL 204, BIOL 205, CHEM 161, and CHEM 162 (or the equivalent courses)

Students who have applied to be a Biology pre-major will be able to access the application via Canvas. The application deadline is the first Friday of the quarter prior to the quarter you plan to start your major. To be eligible to apply, students must have completed BIOL 204, BIOL 205, CHEM 161, and CHEM 162 (or equivalent courses) with a C- or greater.

### COURSE PLANNING WORKSHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>WINTER</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
<th>SUMMER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
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