Natural Sciences Area Major

The natural sciences area major offers students an opportunity to fashion a major according to their needs from appropriate upper-level courses in two different areas of natural science. The student may elect to construct a program bridging biology and chemistry, chemistry and physics, or some other combination. The student is free to select the courses to be taken as long as the program forms a sensible, coherent whole.

The area major in natural sciences can be used as preparation for a career in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science, if the introductory courses chosen by the student include those prescribed for admission to these professional schools. Students selecting the natural sciences area major can also go on to do graduate work in natural science, though they may find that they will have to take some remedial work in graduate school if their undergraduate program does not include the courses that are usually required by a traditional major in a particular subject.

Requirements

The requirements of the natural sciences area major are the following:

Introductory Science Courses

One year of introductory chemistry with laboratory, one year of general physics with laboratory, one year of calculus, and 20 credits of other introductory and/or upper-level science and mathematics courses. Premedical students normally take one year of organic chemistry with laboratory and one year of biology with laboratory.

Upper-Level Science Courses

Five one-semester courses at the 300-level or higher, totaling at least 15 credits. These courses are to be divided between two different science departments. Courses used to satisfy the introductory science requirement above cannot be used to fulfill this requirement. Three of the courses must be taken in one of the following departments: Biology, Biophysics, Chemistry, Earth and Planetary Sciences, or Physics and Astronomy. Two of the courses may be taken in appropriate areas of engineering, mathematics, mathematical science, or Natural Science-coded psychology.

Laboratory courses may not count as upper-level science courses but do count for lower-level science courses. Further information is available in the Office of Academic Advising.

Humanities and Social Science Courses

A minimum of 30 Humanities and Social Science credits. These credits must include five courses at or beyond the 300-level, totaling at least 15 credits, to be taken in at most three different departments.

Electives

Elective courses from any area can be used to fulfill the minimum degree requirements of 120 credits.

Foreign Language

Proficiency is required in a modern foreign language equivalent to one year of an elementary college-level course or at least one semester of an intermediate-level course. An SAT Achievement Test score of 450 or above can be presented to fulfill the language requirement.

Writing Requirement

(See Academic Information for Undergraduates/Academic Requirements [http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/archive/2013-14/undergrad-students/academic-policies/requirements-for-a-bachelors-degree] )

Academic Standards

Students must maintain an overall grade point average of 2.0 in their major. The requirement of five 300-level science courses and five 300-level humanities and social science courses must be fulfilled using courses taught during the regular academic year at Hopkins or in the Johns Hopkins University Arts and Sciences Summer Session. They cannot include Carey Business School or School of Education research, internship, or independent study credits. Satisfactory/unsatisfactory courses (except for the 300-level humanities and social science courses) may not count toward these requirements. (Checksheets are available in the Office of Academic Advising.)