

Four Year Graduation Planner

Program: Bachelor of Science-Biology

Total Credits: 120

Catalog: Fall 2025 to Summer 2026

- This guide is intended to show a recommended fulltime four-year pathway to earning a bachelor degree.
- It is only a sample; there may be other pathways that lead to completion of the degree in four years.
- It is NOT intended to take the place of meetings with advisors or intended to take the place of the Degree Audit System (DARs).

Key to tables below. More details on final page.

Core: fulfills required course for major	Elective: student selected course credits for major	GELS: General Education Liberal Studies Goal Area
LS: Liberal Studies	Pre/Premajor: Premajor foundation course	RIGR: Racial Issues Graduation Requirement

First Year

Course	Requirement Met	Semester Offered	Credits	Credit Hour Total
METR 101 Your Academic Journey	GELS elective	Fall, Spring	3	
MATH 120 Precalculus	Premajor, GELS Goal 4	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	
General Education	GELS Goal 5	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	
General Education Writing	GELS Goal 1	Fall, Spring, Summer	3	14
General Education Communication	GELS Goal 1	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	
CHEM 111 General Chemistry I	Premajor	Fall, Spring	4	
General Education Writing	GELS Goal 1	Fall, Spring, Summer	3	
BIOL 111 General Biology I	Premajor	Fall, Spring	4	15
First Year Total				29

Second Year

Course	Requirement Met	Semester Offered	Credits	Credit Hour Total
MATH 208 Applied Calculus	Premajor	Fall, Spring	4	

Continued

Course	Requirement Met	Semester Offered	Credits	Credit Hour Total
CHEM 112 General Chemistry II	Premajor, GELS Goal 3	Fall, Spring	4	
BIOL 112 General Biology II	Premajor	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	
General Education	GELS Goal 6	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	16
BIOL 221 Anatomy and Physiology I	Premajor, GELS Goal 3	Fall, Spring	4	
BIOL 211 Principles of Genetics	Premajor	Fall, Spring	4	
PHYS 211 Calculus-Based Physics I	Core	Fall, Spring	5	
General Education	GELS Goal 5	Fall, Spring, Summer	3	16
Second Year Total				32

Third Year

Course	Requirement Met	Semester Offered	Credits	Credit Hour Total
BIOL 304 Molecular Biology	Core 1	Fall, Spring	5	
CHEM 231 and CHEM 231L Organic Chemistry I	Core	Fall, Spring	5	
General Education	GELS Goal 10	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	14
BIOL 330 Advanced Microbiology	Core 3	Spring	5	
General Education	RIGR	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	
CHEM 332 and CHEM 332L Organic Chemistry II	Core	Fall, Spring	5	14
Third Year Total				28

Fourth Year

Course	Requirement Met	Semester Offered	Credits	Credit Hour Total
BIOL 312 Evolution	Core 2, LS	Fall	5	
General Education	GELS Goal 6, 8	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	
General Education	GELS Goal 9	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	
BIOL 430 Virology	Elective	Fall	3	16
BIOL 311 Plant Physiology	Elective, LS	Spring	5	
BIOL 489 Senior Research in Biology	Elective	Fall, Spring	2	

Course	Requirement Met	Semester Offered	Credits	Credit Hour Total
General Education	GELS Goal 5	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	
General Education	GELS Goal 7	Fall, Spring, Summer	4	15
Fourth Year Total				31

Academic and graduation requirements

Course requirements

Credit requirements: 120 total credits

- 40 upper-division credits (courses at community colleges are all lower-division courses, so they do not count toward this requirement)
- 30 credits completed at Metropolitan State University
- 40 general education credits
- 8 upper-division liberal studies credits
- 3 [racial issues graduation requirement \(RIGR\)](#) credits
- All credit requirements for the major
- Elective credits (if you are short of the 120 total credits required for graduation)

GELS: General education/liberal studies requirements (48 credits)

- [Minnesota Transfer Curriculum](#): 40 credits. Goal areas 1–10 are met by Minnesota community college A.A. degree. They are *not* met by A.S. or A.A.S degrees or community colleges outside of Minnesota.
- [Liberal studies](#): 8 credits.
 - These credits must be:
 - Upper-division general education courses (300 to 500 level)
 - Designated as a liberal studies (LS) course
 - These credits are not:
 - completed by AA, AAS or AS degrees or the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum

Continued

- met by any community college course (all community college courses are lower division, including courses that meet major requirements)

Racial Issues Graduation Requirement (RIGR) and transfer coursework

All new or readmitted undergraduate students admitted fall 2016 or later must complete an approved learning experience (at least 3 credits) with a significant focus on race and racism to graduate with a bachelor's degree from the university. Upon review, an approved prior learning, independent study, theory seminar or transfer course from other accredited institutions may also be used to meet this graduation requirement.

DARS: Your degree audit report

The Degree Audit report is a degree planning tool for students that includes both transfer and Metropolitan State coursework. You can access your Degree Audit report in [eServices](#) under “Academic Records.” The report includes:

- How your transfer credits have been accepted and applied to General Education and Liberal Studies, including the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum.
- All the requirements needed to complete a specific program.
- Courses that have already been completed, grades received and hours earned, both at Metropolitan State and in transfer.
- Transfer courses that have been made equivalent to Metropolitan State University courses.
- Exceptions to degree and program requirements that have been processed.
- What is still needed to complete a program, with a list of courses that will satisfy each requirement.



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