

# How to Create a 4-year Plan in the Department of Biology

## Important things to understand/do for your plan:

- Because of the flexibility and customizability of our majors, the Academic Support Coordinators will not make a 4-year plan for you - we're here to help make sure your plan will work. A lot of the courses you take will be up to you!
- Understand your curriculum (all the courses you need to take to graduate; see below).
- Pick out your selected/additional field courses for the biology major or your upper-division zoology credits for the zoology major.
- Understand the prerequisites for courses you need/want to take and when the courses are offered. Not every course is offered every semester (see below)!
- Everyone's path to their degree is different and 4-year plans always change many times for many reasons – you'll need to be flexible. Creating your plan in an Excel spreadsheet will make it much easier to make necessary changes and move things around.

## Where to find the information you need:

- For your biology or zoology degree, requirements and explanations can be found online at: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/undergraduates>. You will also go over these things when you meet with an Academic Support Coordinator (and you will be given a copy). If you have a second major or a minor, make sure you meet with an advisor in the other department to get help with your other requirements.
- Descriptions, prerequisites, semesters offered, and other important info (like if the class has a lab or recitation) for every class at CSU can be found online at: [http://catalog.colostate.edu/CoursePDF/5-FULL\\_COURSE\\_LISTING.pdf](http://catalog.colostate.edu/CoursePDF/5-FULL_COURSE_LISTING.pdf). The courses are listed in alphabetical (and numerical) order by the course code, so you'll just need to scroll up or down the document to find the course you want. There is a key at the top of the course listing that explains how to understand the info included for each course.

## Rules of thumb to follow while making your plan:

- To avoid overload, try not to take more than 3 science/math courses or more than 2 labs in any given semester. Balance your schedule each semester with AUCC courses or electives.
- When you finish your plan, make sure you have at least 120 total credits and at least 42 upper-division credits. Add electives to your plan if you have deficiencies in either of these places.
- Regardless of how solid your plan is, make sure to visit an Academic Support Coordinator periodically to make sure things are staying on track!

## Resources available to help get your plan finalized:

- Sample 4-year plans can be found online at: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/undergraduates>. You can also get sample plans when you meet with an Academic Support Coordinator.
- You are always welcome to get help from an Academic Support Coordinator if you get stuck or want to get your plan checked out. As always, appointments can be scheduled online at: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/undergraduates/schedule-an-appointment/>
- If you are interested in a health profession (i.e., medical school, vet school, etc.), make sure to run your plan by the Health Professions Advisors in CASA. Call 970-491-7095 to get an appointment with them.