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In addition, the college makes internal admission decisions based partially on major enrollments. If the number of majors is artificially inflated with students who cannot pass the major classes, the college cannot make accurate internal admission decisions.

Honors: Updated information by the College of Natural Sciences Honors Center director.

Reason: Description out of date.

University Honors: Updated information by the College of Natural Sciences Honors Center director.

Reason: Removed duplicate information.

Dean's Scholars Program: Updated information by the College of Natural Sciences Honors Center director.

Reason: Description out of date.

Health Science Scholars Program: Updated information by the College of Natural Sciences Honors Center director.

Reason: This is a relatively new honors program. The description has evolved as it becomes more firmly established.

Polymathic Scholars Program: Updated information by the College of Natural Sciences Honors Center director.

Reason: This is a relatively new honors program. The description has evolved as it becomes more firmly established.

Departmental Honors: Updates to the departmental honors programs in Biochemistry and Computer Science, and addition of the Neuroscience Departmental Honors.

Reason: These requirements were established several years ago and have not been reviewed recently. Upon a college-wide review, Biochemistry and Computer Science made minor updates to their departmental honors programs. The Department of Neuroscience split off from Biology and needs to establish its own honors program.

Graduation

Special Requirements of the College: Remove "summer session" when stating when degrees can be awarded.

Reason: This might be misinterpreted by students to think that degrees may be awarded after the first summer session.

Applying for Graduation: Remove "summer session" when stating when degrees can be awarded.

Reason: This might be misinterpreted by students to think that degrees may be awarded after the first summer session.

Degrees and Programs: Increase major hours of the Bachelor of Science and Arts to up to 55 hours.

Reason: The Biology major was increased in the 2016-18 catalog without updating this statement. Correction to clarify maximum major hours.

3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES (Please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Flags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) | |

4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools?
If yes, then how would you do so?

Yes No

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- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes No
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain:

If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion?

Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc>

If yes, explain:

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

College approval date: September 20, 2017

Approved by whom: Course and Curriculum Committee

Dean approval date: September 20, 2017

Approved by whom: David Vanden Bout, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

PROPOSED NEW TEXT:

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Linda A. Hicke, PhD, *Dean*

Dean R. Appling, PhD, *Associate Dean, Research and Facilities*

David A. Vanden Bout, PhD, *Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education*

Nataša Pavlović ~~Shelly Payne~~, PhD, *Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs*

Daniel F. Knopf, PHD, *Associate Dean, Graduate Education*

Melissa Taylor ~~Catherine A. Stacy~~, PhD, *Senior Assistant Dean, Strategy and Planning*

Kelsey A. Evans, BA, *Assistant Dean, External Relations*

Jennifer Moon, PhD, *Assistant Dean, Non-tenure Track Faculty*

Ricardo Medina, MBA CPA, *Assistant Dean, Business Services*

Susan C. Harkins, EdD, *Assistant Dean, Texas Interdisciplinary Plan*

Michael W. Raney, PhD, *Assistant Dean, Student Affairs and First-Year Initiatives*

<http://cns.utexas.edu/>

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General Information

Arts and Sciences Education

Financial Assistance Available through the College

[no change]

Student Services

Academic Advising

[no change]

Career Services ~~Design Center~~

The Career ~~Services Design Center~~ is a multidisciplinary hub for students to explore the next phase of their professional or educational career. Additional information is given on the ~~Career Design Center website~~, Career Services website. [<https://cns.utexas.edu/career-services>]

Study Abroad

Students are encouraged to incorporate an international experience into their course of study. In addition to the traditional study abroad programs, students may take advantage of programs specifically designed for science study, including faculty-led courses, Maymester courses, and research abroad. The Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science (TIDES) Office for Honors, Research, and International Study provides information sessions, one-on-one advising, and resources for science students interested in these programs.

Student Programs

The College of Natural Sciences offers additional programs to supplement the degree plans. Additional information is given at ~~<http://cns.utexas.edu/>~~. <https://cns.utexas.edu/student-communities>.

Biology Scholars Program

The Biology Scholars Program (BSP) is designed to provide lower-division biochemistry and biology students with a broader understanding of the study of biology and a strong sense of community as they begin their academic careers. Throughout the two-year program, BSP provides academic support, resources for peer-led study, and community service opportunities. Each semester, BSP students take a specialized critical thinking seminar on topics that range from the study of biological sciences to graduate and professional careers in biology. These classes emphasize working in small groups and help BSP students develop strong problem-solving and study skills.

Cornerstones Program

All entering Natural Sciences majors, freshman or transfer, are eligible for participation in the Cornerstones Program. The guiding principles for students are to connect, acclimate, navigate, and explore. Each entering freshman joins a small learning community led by a faculty or staff advisor, and a peer mentor. The key components of Cornerstones are creating small learning communities, gaining tools to succeed in college, learning about majors, and developing skills and experiences to launch successful careers upon graduation. Transfer students are given the option to join the program. More information is available at <https://cns.utexas.edu/student-communities/cns-cornerstones-communities>.

Emerging Scholars Program

The Emerging Scholars Program (ESP) is designed to help highly motivated mathematics, science, and engineering students toward continued academic success in essential first-year math and science courses. ESP students work closely with faculty members and with other high-achieving students in a supplemental workshop designed to enrich their course experience and intensify their understanding of the course material. The ESP experience is currently available in calculus and chemistry. Students are invited to participate during the spring of their senior year of high school on the basis of strong academic credentials and history of achievement in mathematics and sciences.

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Freshman Research Initiative

[no change]

Texas Interdisciplinary Plan

The Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (TIP) transforms the learning experience for its ~~students~~ scholars by creating small academic communities that promote academic excellence and leadership. TIP offers students who have excelled in high school and are enrolled in the College of Natural Sciences a unique opportunity to continue their academic excellence through managed courses, mentoring, collaborative study, dedicated professional academic advisor, and academic and social connections. ~~collection of selective academic programs that serve about nine hundred students each year, including TIP Scholars, TIP Fellows, Getting Ready for Advanced Degrees (grad), and the TIP Mentor Academy. While each program is unique, all incorporate assisted registration for courses, mentoring, tutoring, and academic and social connections. Admission criteria differ for each program. More information is available from the TIP office and at <https://cns.utexas.edu/>~~

Undergraduate Research

UTeach-Natural Sciences

Women in Natural Sciences

[no change]

Admission and Registration

[no change]

Academic Policies and Procedures

Academic Standards

Mathematics Placement

[no change]

Repetition of a Course

[No changes but relevant to new policy that follows it]

No student may enroll in any course in the College of Natural Sciences more than twice, even if the course is needed to meet degree requirements, without first obtaining the written consent of his or her major adviser and of the department that offers the course; students in colleges other than the College of Natural Sciences need only departmental approval. A symbol of *Q* or *W* counts as an enrollment unless it has been approved by the dean's office for nonacademic reasons.

A student may not repeat any course in which he or she has earned a grade of *C-* or better.

Departments in the college may have additional requirements for students who repeat courses.

Removal from the Major

A Natural Sciences student whose appeal to repeat a course in the College of Natural Sciences for a third time and is denied may be removed from the major if the course is required by the degree.

A student who is removed from the major will be placed in the undeclared major while the student examines options to pursue another major in the College of Natural Sciences or in another college. An academic adviser will work with the student to explore opportunities for academic success and graduation.

A student who transfers the course for which a repeat appeal was denied may appeal to re-enter the major from

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which the student was removed. Appeals to re-enter the major are reviewed by the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education.

**Concurrent Enrollment
Undergraduates in a Graduate Course
Petitions for Degree Requirements**
[no change]

Honors

There are several avenues available for undergraduates to achieve honors recognition for exemplary academic ability and performance. They include: University-wide Honors, graduation with University Honors, college-wide honors programs, departmental honors degree options, and completion of departmental honors. ~~University-wide Honors consists of recognition each fall and spring for students who meet the university criteria for University Honors. Graduation with University Honors consists of recognition at the time of graduation to a percentage of the college's graduates for students who meet the University criteria for graduating with University Honors.~~

The College of Natural Sciences offers Bachelor of Science and Arts and Bachelor of Science honors degree options in three programs that serve majors in the College of Natural Sciences: Dean's Scholars, Health Science Scholars, and Polymathic Scholars. ~~These honors degrees are available to students in the Dean's Scholars Program, the Health Science Scholars Program, and the Polymathic Scholars Program. Each program has its own admission process and requirements for participants to remain in good standing. The College of Natural Sciences Honors Center is available for inquiries about admission and requirements. Information about admission and requirements for each is available at the CNS Honors & Scholarships website. [https://cns.utexas.edu/honors]~~

Honors degree options that are sponsored by departments include: Turing Scholars in Computer Science; Honors in Advanced Human Development and Family Sciences Program; and the Honors in Advanced Nutritional Sciences Program.

Lastly, students may earn departmental honors upon graduation through completion and approval of an undergraduate thesis.

University Honors

University honors are earned on a semester by semester basis. Information relating to University Honors can be found in the *General Information Catalog*. ~~In addition, the College of Natural Sciences encourages academic excellence through programs such as the Dean's Scholars Honors Program and Turing Scholars in Computer Science. Students may also graduate with departmental honors as described below and may earn membership in one or more of the honorary scholastic societies open to undergraduates.~~

Graduation with University Honors

[no change]

Dean's Scholars Honors Program

~~The Dean's Scholars Honors Program is a comprehensive honors degree program for highly motivated and talented students. The key features of the program are a first semester research methods course; a breadth requirement, usually completed during the first four semesters, that exposes students to various forms of scientific inquiry; and at least two semesters of supervised research and writing that culminate in an honors thesis. Students in good standing in the Dean's Scholars Honors Program may follow the honors option for the appropriate bachelor of science degree. The honors degree option is available in most fields in the college.~~

Dean's Scholars is a four-year honors degree program for highly motivated and talented students with a demonstrated interest in mathematics and/or scientific research. Students earn a Bachelor of Science degree with an honors option. This option is available in all majors offered by the College of Natural Sciences.

The key features of the program are a first-semester research methods course; a breadth requirement, usually

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completed during the first four semesters, that exposes students to various forms of scientific inquiry; and at least two semesters of supervised research and writing that culminate in an honors thesis.

Application to the Dean's Scholars Honors Program is separate from, and in addition to, application to the University. Application materials and information about deadlines are available in the program office and on the Dean's Scholars website. Students may enter the program as freshmen, ~~as transfer students,~~ or as college transfers prior to their fourth long semester of enrollment at the University after they have enrolled at the University. ~~In general, students who have completed more than 50 semester hours of college coursework are not considered for admission.~~

Factors in the admission decision are the student's high school and/or University grades, class rank, the rigor of the courses the student has taken, the quality of the required application essays, a strong recommendation from a mathematics or science instructor, and the student's interest in mathematics and/or scientific research as demonstrated by extracurricular activities, ~~faculty recommendations, and the student's interest and aptitude in math and science as demonstrated by relevant extracurricular activities.~~

To remain in good standing in the ~~program~~ Dean's Scholars Honors Program, students are expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.50. Students who do not may be dismissed from the program by the faculty director. must maintain an in-residence grade point average of at least 3.25 after 30 hours in residence, of at least 3.40 after 60 hours in residence, and of at least 3.50 after 90 hours in residence. Students who fail to maintain the required grade point average will usually be dismissed from the program. Under special circumstances and at the discretion of the departmental honors adviser, a student may be allowed to continue under academic review.

Health Science Scholars Program

~~The Health Science Scholars Program is intended for students whose interest in science is focused on clinical careers and healthcare practice or policy. Health Science Scholars pursue a Bachelor of Science and Arts honors degree and complete a major in a field of study within the College of Natural Sciences, as well as an interdisciplinary minor which complements their scientific interest and prepares them for health professions, policy, or business. Students complete a departmental honors thesis, or a health-related internship/practicum and a thesis that synthesizes and analyzes scholarly literature related to the internship/practicum.~~

Health Science Scholars is a four-year honors degree program for exceptional students who are interested in the health professions and committed to community service. Students earn a Bachelor of Science and Arts degree with an honors major. An honors option is available in all majors offered under this degree by the College of Natural Sciences.

The key features of the program are a first-semester research methods course; a six-credit-hour requirement in honors-level coursework in one or more science; a substantive health or service-related learning experience or laboratory research, undertaken in the third year; and an honors thesis based on their third-year project, written in the final year.

Application to the Health Science Scholars Program is separate from, and in addition to, application to the University. Application materials and information about deadlines are available on the Health Science Scholars website. Students may enter the program as freshmen or as college transfers prior to their fourth long semester of enrollment at the University.

Factors in the admission decision are the student's high school and/or college grades, class rank, the rigor of the courses the student has taken, the quality of the required application essays, a strong recommendation from a mathematics or science instructor, and the student's interest in science, health and service as demonstrated by extracurricular activities.

To remain in good standing in the program, students are expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.50. Students who do not may be dismissed from the program by the faculty director.

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Polymathic Scholars Program

The Polymathic Scholars Program is designed for students with a strong interest in the sciences, but who also have strong scholarly interests beyond their major. Polymathic Scholars design an interdisciplinary minor field of study—a field defined by the students' interests and limited only by their ability to engage them as a scholar. The interdisciplinary minor is an opportunity for the student to explore the impacts of their field of study or a completely different field of interest. Polymathic Scholars pursue a Bachelor of Science and Arts honors degree and complete a thesis that synthesizes and analyzes scholarly literature within their field of study.

Polymathic Scholars is a four-year honors degree program for exceptional science majors who have compelling interests or talents beyond the natural sciences and wish to make them part of their undergraduate degree. Students earn a Bachelor of Science and Arts degree with an honors major. An honors option is available in all majors offered under this degree by the College of Natural Sciences.

The key features of the program are a first-semester research methods course; a six-credit-hour requirement in honors-level coursework in one or more science; a multidisciplinary field of study outside the student's major, conceived and designed by the student and including no fewer than four courses; and an honors thesis on a question within that field, written in the final year.

Application to the Polymathic Scholars Program is separate from, and in addition to, application to the University. Application materials and information about deadlines are available on the Polymathic Scholars website. Students may enter the program as freshmen or as college transfers prior to their fourth long semester of enrollment at the University.

Factors in the admission decision are the student's high school and/or college grades, class rank, the rigor of the courses the student has taken, the quality of the required application essays, a strong recommendation from a mathematics or science instructor, and the student's investment in science as well as in one or more areas beyond science, as demonstrated by extracurricular activities.

To remain in good standing in the program, students are expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.50. Students who do not may be dismissed from the program by the faculty director.

Turing Scholars in Computer Science

Honors In Advanced Human Development and Family Sciences Program

Honors In Advanced Nutritional Sciences Program

[no change]

College Honors

Departmental Honors

Astronomy Departmental Honors

[no change]

Biochemistry Departmental Honors

Majors who plan to seek special departmental honors in biochemistry should apply to the departmental honors adviser for admission to the honors program no later than the beginning of the senior year. A University grade point average of at least 3.00 and a grade point average in biochemistry and chemistry of at least 3.50 are required for admission.

The requirements for graduation with special departmental honors are (1) all requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry; (2) two semesters of Biochemistry 379H, *Biochemistry Honors Tutorial Course*; (3) a thesis and a presentation based on research; the research topic and the thesis must be approved by the supervising faculty member and the undergraduate faculty departmental honors adviser; (4) a University grade point average of at least 3.00 and a grade point average in biochemistry and chemistry of at least 3.50; (5) completion at

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the University of at least 60 semester hours of coursework counted toward the degree; and (6) approval of the honors adviser.

Biology Departmental Honors

Chemistry Departmental Honors

[no change]

Computer Science Departmental Honors

Students seeking special departmental honors must meet with a faculty adviser at least two semesters before they plan to graduate to discuss potential research topics and the requirements for receiving special departmental honors.

The requirements for graduation with special departmental honors are (1) Computer Science 379H, *Computer Science Honors Thesis*, with a grade of at least B-; (2) a University grade point average of at least 3.00 and a grade point average in computer science of at least 3.50; (3) a thesis and presentation based on research, ~~written on the subject of the student's research and approved in comprehensive examination by a committee consisting of at least three faculty members, including the honors adviser;~~ and (4) completion at the University of at least 60 semester hours of coursework counted toward the degree.

Human Development and Family Sciences Departmental Honors

Human Ecology Departmental Honors

Mathematics Departmental Honors

[no change]

Neuroscience Departmental Honors

Majors who plan to seek special departmental honors in neuroscience should apply to the honors adviser for admission to the honors program no later than the beginning of the senior year. A University grade point average of at least 3.00 and a grade point average in neuroscience of at least 3.50 are required for admission.

The requirements for graduation with special departmental honors are (1) two semesters of neuroscience research coursework, including Neuroscience 379H, *Honors Tutorial Course*; (2) a thesis based on original research and approved by the supervising faculty member and the honors adviser; (3) a University grade point average of at least 3.00 and a grade point average in neuroscience of at least 3.50; and (4) completion at the University of at least 60 semester hours of coursework counted toward the degree.

Nutrition Departmental Honors

Physics Departmental Honors

Public Health Departmental Honors

Textiles and Apparel Departmental Honors

[no change]

GRADUATION

Special Requirements of the College

All students must fulfill the General Requirements for graduation. Students in the College of Natural Sciences must also fulfill the following requirements.

1. The University requires that the student complete in residence at least 60 semester hours of the coursework counted toward the degree. For the Bachelor of Arts, Plan I, these 60 hours must include at least 18 hours in the major.
2. The University requires that at least six semester hours of advanced coursework in the major be completed in residence. Additional hours in the professional or major sequence in many cases are required by individual natural sciences degree programs.
3. A candidate for a degree must be registered in the College of Natural Sciences either in residence or in absentia the semester ~~or summer session~~ the degree is to be awarded. Graduation applications must be submitted no later

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than the date given in the academic calendar. The application and supplemental in absentia instructions are available via the College of Natural Sciences website.

Applying for Graduation

An electronic degree audit is created for each student each semester. The student should view the audit through IDA, the University's Interactive Degree Audit system. The degree audit tells the student the courses he or she must take and the requirements he or she must fulfill to receive the degree. The degree audit normally provides an accurate statement of requirements, but the student is responsible for knowing the requirements for the degree as stated in a catalog under which he or she is eligible to graduate and for registering so as to fulfill all these requirements. The student should speak with his or her assigned academic adviser before registering if in doubt about any requirement.

In the semester ~~or summer session~~ in which the degree is to be conferred, the candidate must be registered at the University and must file an online graduation application form via the graduation section of the College of Natural Sciences website. This should be done during the first week of classes, if possible, but in no event later than the deadline to apply for an undergraduate degree; this date is given in the official academic calendar. No degree will be conferred unless the graduation application form has been filed on time.

DEGREES AND PROGRAMS

The College of Natural Sciences offers the following undergraduate degrees:

1. Bachelor of Science and Arts, with majors in astronomy, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, computer science, human development and family sciences, human ecology, nutrition, mathematics, neuroscience, and physics.
2. Bachelor of Science degrees in astronomy, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, computer science, environmental science, human development and family sciences, mathematics, medical laboratory science, neuroscience, nutrition, physics, public health, and textiles and apparel.
3. Bachelor of Arts, Plan I, with majors in astronomy, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and physics.

The Bachelor of Science and Arts degree offers a cross-disciplinary experience for students who want to combine a strong core science experience with coursework in areas such as business, communications, fine arts, and the liberal arts. Students choose a major ~~comprised of 48~~ of up to 55 hours of science and mathematics. Students choose either a transcript-recognized minor outside of the sciences, 15 hours in a field of study outside of sciences, or an 18 to 24 hour transcript-recognized certificate. A full list of the minor and certificate programs offered at the University can be found in The University section of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

The Bachelor of Science degrees provide deep exploration of science fields for students preparing for graduate science programs and careers as specialized scientists. The degrees contain between 80 to 90 hours of science and mathematics, and typically have multiple specialized options that reflect niche areas of study.

The Bachelor of Arts, Plan I, is shared with the College of Liberal Arts.

A student may not earn more than one Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Arts, or Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science degree from the University. A student may earn only one undergraduate degree in a particular field of study from the College of Natural Sciences. A student who holds a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science and Arts degree from the University may earn a second major designation in another field of study that will appear on the University transcript.

The title of a graduate's degree appears on his or her diploma, but the major does not. The degree, the major, the transcript-recognized certificate, and the minor appear on the graduate's University transcript.

A natural sciences student who wishes to add another major in the college must meet the criterion described in the Admission and Registration section.

Applicability of Certain Courses

Physical Activity Courses

ROTC Courses

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Courses Taken on the Pass/Fail Basis

Courses in a Single Field

College Algebra

[no change]

1 See <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/degree-program-changes> for detailed explanations.

2 Submit required Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board forms to the provost's office.

3 **EXCLUSIVE:** of *exclusive* application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is *seven calendar days*); **GENERAL:** of *general* interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*); **MAJOR:** *major* legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*).