

Executive Summary: 2020 Biology Program Changes

The proposed changes to the Biology courses and program in 2020 represent a continuation of major changes that began and were intended to take effect in 2018. This proposal reflects program 'clean-up' following the 2018 overhaul.

1. Revisions of Majors and Tracks.
 - a. Some program changes intended in 2018, though pedagogically sound, were not immediately possible for technical reasons (e.g., courses could not be listed as equivalent options in menus if they did not consist of equal credit hours).
 - b. The following section describing the splitting of lab and lecture courses made the current revisions to majors and tracks a possibility after being postponed during the 2018 program revisions.
2. Splitting of lab and lecture courses.
 - a. Here we split most of the BIOL 4 hour lecture + lab courses into separate 3 hour lecture and 1 hour lab courses.
 - b. This proposal does not change course content but became necessary in order for the 3 hour lecture and 1 hour lab courses to count in separate course requirement menus of the Biology majors and tracks.
 - c. These changed descriptions apply to the following courses: **BIOL 345, BIOL 380, BIOL 403, BIOL 481, BIOL 486, BIOL 487.**
3. Course closure.
 - a. Animal Biology and Lab [**BIOL 221 & 223**] and Plant Biology and Lab [**BIOL 222 & 224**] are no longer offered as a result of the 2018 changes.
4. Change in course title, description & prerequisite.
 - a. We propose that the name of **BIOL 370** be changed to 'Field Ornithology' with a catalog description that accurately discloses the emphasis on avian natural history and field research techniques as taught by current faculty.
5. Corrections/clarifications to course descriptions.
 - a. Several courses had catalog descriptions that were unclear, too abbreviated, or incorrect in minor ways.
 - b. These do not reflect recent changes in course content but are necessary to accurately describe the current courses.
 - c. These changed descriptions apply to the following courses: **BIOL 291 & BIOL 292, BIOL 454**
 - d. Changes to Descriptions and prerequisites apply to: **BIOL 351, BIOL 483**
6. Swapping of course titles and descriptions for General Biology I [**BIOL 112 & 114**] and General Biology II [**BIOL 113 & 115**] courses.
 - a. General Biology I and General Biology II share the same General Biology textbook. As currently taught, General Biology I covers chapters in the later half of the text, General Biology II covers chapters in the beginning of the text. This is inconsistent with the curriculum at most universities.
 - b. Although this change affects multiple departments that utilize these freshman-level courses, the proposed change will better serve ACU students by covering content in a way that builds from simple to complex systems and by

making the General Biology courses at ACU more consistent in their content with the vast majority of entry-level biology courses at other universities.