

Guidelines for Junior Transfer Students Interested in Science Majors

These guides give the minimum, optimal, and recommended coursework to complete before transferring to Mills College for students interested in science majors. This guide is written with students who enter in the fall in mind. Students planning to enter in the spring semester are also encouraged to contact the appropriate department as many course sequences only begin in the fall.

“Minimum” is the minimum coursework needed in order to complete a BA in the associated major in two years, but will require multiple “heavy” semesters with three or four science courses in one semester. Students on a four-year BA path typically take two science or math courses each semester. Students who only meet the “minimum” pre-requisites will not be able to complete a BS in two years. Students who do not meet the “minimum” pre-requisites may still be able to complete the program, given extra time or some summer coursework, and should contact the departmental representatives below.

“Optimal” is the additional coursework to put a transfer student on the same schedule as a student who entered Mills College as a first year student, for the BA program. Students who enter at this “optimal” level will also be able to complete the BS but will likely need one or more semesters with four science courses and/or some summer coursework.

“Recommended” courses are specifically for students interested in the BS degree. In the BS program, students typically take three science and/or math courses after the freshman year. With the recommended coursework completed, transfer students should not need to take more than three science/math courses in one semester to complete the BS degree.

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

Beth Kochly, bkochly@mills.edu

Minimum: complete 1 year of General Chemistry and 1 year of Calculus

Optimal: also complete 1 year of General Biology and 1 year of Organic Chemistry

Recommended: also complete 1 semester of math beyond calculus and 1 semester of computer programming.

Biology

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Minimum: complete 1 year of General Chemistry

Optimal: also complete 1 year of General Biology, 1 year of Organic Chemistry, and 1 semester of calculus or statistics

Recommended: also complete 1 year of calculus, 1 semester of statistics, and 1 semester of computer programming.

Biopsychology

Elizabeth Bachen, bachen@mills.edu

Minimum: complete 1 year of General Chemistry and 1 semester of Introductory Psychology

Optimal: also complete 1 year of General Biology, 1 semester of Organic Chemistry, and one semester of statistics

Recommended: also complete 1 year of Organic Chemistry, 1 year of calculus, and 1 semester of computer programming.

Chemistry

Elisabeth Wade, ewade@mills.edu

Minimum: complete 1 year of General Chemistry, 1 year of Calculus, and high school or Introductory Physics

Optimal: also complete 1 year of Organic Chemistry and 1 year of calculus-based Physics

Recommended: also complete 1 semester of math beyond calculus, 1 semester of computer programming, and 1 semester General Biology

Environmental Science

Kristina Faul, kfaul@mills.edu

Minimum: complete 1 year of General Chemistry

Optimal: also complete 1 year of General Biology, 1 semester of Organic Chemistry, 1 semester of calculus or statistics, and 1 semester of geology

Recommended: also complete 1 year of Organic Chemistry, 1 year of calculus, 1 semester of statistics, and 1 semester of computer programming.