

Biology DTA/MRP Statewide Major Related Program (MRP) Agreement

This pathway is applicable to students planning to prepare for upper division Bachelor's degree majors in Biology. Many students transfer to baccalaureate institutions after completing the Associate Degree Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA); this pathway does not alter that agreement or the possibility that students may continue to follow this path. This Biology MRP streamlines and facilitates preparation for upper division course work in Biology across the state.

This document represents an agreement between the following baccalaureate institutions offering bachelor's degrees in Biology or a related field and the community and technical college system. Baccalaureate institutions party to this agreement include: Central Washington University; Eastern Washington University; The Evergreen State College; University of Washington Seattle, Washington State University Pullman; Western Washington University; Saint Martin's University; Seattle University; and Whitworth University.

Community colleges agree:

- When awarding their degree developed to meet this agreement, they will designate it on the student's transcript as **Associate in Biology DTA/MRP**. Such a degree will meet all the requirements specified in this agreement and all the requirements of the direct transfer agreement (DTA). The colleges will recognize such degrees with an **Exit Code of "R"** effective Summer 2009.
- If Community Colleges find that changes to the MRP are needed, they will notify the Instruction Commission, which will, in turn, notify the Joint Access Oversight Group (JAOG). JAOG will follow clearly defined review processes to address proposed changes.
- Where the degree allows for student choice in classes, the published associate degree listing will include advice to students about contacting potential transfer institutions regarding their choices.

Participating baccalaureate institutions agree:

- Students completing associate degrees meeting this agreement who have also met any specific institutional GPA requirements will be regarded as having the minimum preparation for consideration for admission to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science program in Biology unless an exception is specifically noted in this agreement.
- Baccalaureate institutions will apply a minimum of 90-quarter credits required under this agreement to the credits required in the bachelor's degree, subject to the provisos in the ICRC DTA agreement.
- Baccalaureate institutions will each build an alert mechanism into their curriculum review process for changes related to the Biology DTA/MRP.
 - The alert will go to the institution or sector JAOG member.
 - If the proposed change will affect lower division course taking, the JAOG member will bring the issue to JAOG attention for action to review or update this Major Related Program Agreement.
- Prior to making changes in the admission requirements, institutions agree to participate in the JAOG designed review process and to abide by the related implementation timelines.
- This statewide process applies only to changes¹ in the requirements for admission to the major. References to changes do not include changes in graduation requirements that are completed at the upper division or the GPA an institution may establish for admission to a program.

¹ As judged by impact on students. This statewide process is called into play when potential student majors need to complete specific courses not previously identified or present test results or information not included in the agreement.

Associate Degree DTA/Biology MRP

Generic DTA Requirements	Biology MRP Requirements	Notes
A. Basic Requirements		
1. Communication Skills (10 credits)	10 quarter credits English composition	May be individualized based on baccalaureate college of choice
2. Quantitative/Symbolic Reasoning Skills (5 credits) Intermediate Algebra Proficiency is required	5 quarter credits mathematics - Calculus I Intermediate Algebra Proficiency leading to a pre-calculus math course is required	Statistics (a course that includes descriptive and inferential statistics) may substitute for Calculus I at some institutions; students are encouraged to check with the transfer institution early in their decision process to confirm requirements. Intermediate Algebra proficiency may be demonstrated by successful completion of a Calculus and/or Statistics course for which Intermediate Algebra is a prerequisite.
B. Distribution Requirements		
1. Humanities (15 credits) Consistent with the requirements in all DTA degrees - no more than 10 credits per discipline area, 5 credits maximum in world languages or ASL. No more than 5 credits of performance/skills classes are allowed.	15 quarter credits of Humanities Consistent with the requirements in all DTA degrees - no more than 10 credits per discipline area, 5 credits maximum in world languages or ASL. No more than 5 credits of performance/skills classes are allowed.	In order to better prepare for successful transfer, students are encouraged to consult with the institution(s) to which they wish to transfer regarding the humanities courses that best support or may be required as prerequisites to their Biology curriculum.
2. Social Sciences (15 credits)	15 quarter credits of Social Sciences	In order to better prepare for successful transfer, students are encouraged to consult with the institution(s) to which they wish to transfer regarding the social science courses that best support or may be required as prerequisites to their Biology curriculum.

Generic DTA Requirements	Biology MRP Requirements	Notes
B. Distribution Requirements (continued)		
3. Natural Sciences (minimum of 15 credits)	30 quarter credits, including: - 15 credits general biology (majors level) - 15 credits general chemistry (majors level)	<p>The only general biology sequences (major's level) accepted are those with SBCTC common course numbering - identified with an ampersand (&). The two sequences accepted are: Sequence 1—Biol& 211, Biol& 212, and Biol& 213; OR Sequence 2 – Biol& 221, Biol& 222, and Biol& 223</p> <p>A full year sequence at a single college is the best preparation for the baccalaureate biology degree.</p> <p>All baccalaureate institutions want the following four areas covered within the 15 credit general biology sequence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecology 2. Evolution 3. Major Cell and Molecular biology 4. Organismal (plant and animal) physiology
C. Electives	15 additional quarter credits These 15 additional credits should be planned in consultation with and advisor	Electives allow students to include additional courses to prepare for the biology major based on college selection. Examples include a full year sequence of organic chemistry for majors; a full year sequence of physics for science majors; or further math at the pre-calculus level or above or statistics. Students should check with the transfer institution prior to taking any further biology courses beyond the one-year sequence. Some colleges require all continuing biology courses be taken at the 300 level.

Notes on Application to a University or College

1. Admission application deadlines vary; students must meet the deadline for the university or universities to which they plan to apply for transfer admission.
2. Certain schools may have additional “university-specific” requirements that are not prerequisites to admission to the Biology major but will need to be completed prior to graduation. Contact with advisors from individual schools for institutional requirements is highly recommended since this DTA may not meet every institution-specific graduation requirement.
3. Certain schools may have additional “university-specific” requirements for admission to the institution that are not prerequisites specifically identified in the DTA requirements.

Associate Degrees developed under this agreement shall:

- Meet the requirements of the statewide Direct Transfer Agreement as it applies to both institutions party to this agreement and other institutions party to the statewide DTA agreement. If admitted to the baccalaureate institution, students will have junior standing. Students seeking admission to public institutions will be given priority in the admission decision for admission to the institution over similarly qualified transfer applicants without a Direct Transfer Associate degree. Admission to an institution does not guarantee admission to a specific program or major.
- Be issued only to students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00, as calculated by the degree awarding institution. Specific grade requirements vary from course to course and among transfer institutions. Students must check with the transfer institution. **Note that admission to specific upper division Biology programs may be competitive; therefore, no particular GPA can guarantee admission to any specific program.**

THIS DOCUMENT RECORDS THE BIOLOGY DTA MRP AGREEMENT. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO SERVE AS AN ADVISING TOOL FOR STUDENTS.

APPENDIX A

**Biology DTA/MRP
Statewide Major Related Program (MRP)
Participants to the Agreement**

The Joint Access Oversight Group (JAOG) reviewed this agreement on December 12, 2008 and forwarded it for approval by the chief academic officers of the public and private baccalaureate institutions offering the Biology degree and the Instruction Commission representing the chief academic officers of the public community and technical colleges.

Instruction Commission, on behalf of the Washington State Community and Technical Colleges _____
Date

Central Washington University Date

Saint Martin’s University Date

Eastern Washington University Date

Seattle University Date

The Evergreen State College Date

Whitworth University Date

University of Washington Seattle Date

University Date

Washington State University Pullman Date

University Date

Western Washington University Date

University Date

APPENDIX B: Biology Workgroup Participants

Co-Chairs: Flash Gibson, Eastern Washington University; Travis Kibota, Clark College

Public Universities

Central Washington University
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Eastern Washington University
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The Evergreen State College
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Independent Colleges

Saint Martin's University
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Whitworth University
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Seattle University
Mara Rempe

Community and Technical Colleges

Clark College
Travis Kibota
Edmonds Community College
Jenny McFarland
Pierce College
Dale Blum
Centralia College
Steve Norton
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Randy Spaulding, Jim West

Joint Access Oversight Group Members 2008-09

Co-chair: Sandra Fowler-Hill, Vice President of Instruction, Everett Community College

Co-chair: Jane Sherman, Vice Provost for Academic Policy and Evaluation, Washington State University

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Dorna Bullpitt, Interim Vice President for Instruction, South Puget Sound Community College

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