



Brookline High School

Science Department
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Brookline, MA 02445
(617) 713-5365

Biology Course Selection

Chemistry teachers will be meeting with students, with the help of their fellow Biology teachers, to help students understand the differences between the various Biology courses. They will also give one-on-one recommendations when appropriate. In the mean time, here are Biology teachers' words on how to choose a course:

Biology I is a rigorous college preparatory Biology course for students who want a solid foundation in introductory biology. Students learn material primarily through lecture/discussion, and participate in labs and activities that further emphasize or expand on lecture material. Students learn about a wide range of topics within Biology; while many of these topics overlap with those on Biology I Honor, Biology I moves at a more moderate pace and does not delve into as much depth.

Homework in Biology I consists of both guided reading, with key questions, and independent reading-and-note-taking. Homework also involves analyzing lab results, as well as reviewing content taught in the classroom.

Biology I Honor is a fast-paced, intense introductory Biology course based around lecture and discussion of a wide-range of content.

Homework in Biology I Honor consists of reading and taking notes from the text that supplement and guide their class lecture notes, as well as completing inquiry-based labs and activities.

The students in Biology I Honor are comfortable learning independently through reading, are well organized, and are ready for a challenge. Students interested in enrolling in AP Biology, or AP Environmental Science, will need Biology I Honor to satisfy the expectations of those courses. Further, Biology I Honor is the introductory course that most prepares students for the SAT II Subject Test in Biology M (Molecular). However, to be prepared fully for this exam, students need to independently review and learn some additional material outside of class.

BSCS Biology I Honor is a discovery-based introductory Biology course. It can be taken for standard credit. While students may learn through lecture, the bulk of the learning experience occurs through exploration. Students elect early in the course to earn honor or standard credit; honor students complete extra assignments, read articles, and answer more challenging test questions, while participating in a heterogeneous classroom environment.

Homework in BSCS Biology involves reading, writing responses to class activities, and answering lab follow-up questions.

The students in BSCS Biology are active learners; they learn by *doing*. Students work in groups, as group collaboration is a large piece of the learning experience. Because of this, students with attendance issues or who are not comfortable working with peers should not enroll in BSCS Biology. This course does not specifically address material for the SAT II Subject Tests in Biology, but students have been successful on the SAT II Subject Test in Biology E (Ecology) with this course, although they need to independently review and learn additional material outside of class.

Additional Courses are possible, only with consultation from guidance counselors and teachers. It is common for students to also enroll in an optional course, but students need to plan their entire schedule and their plans for graduation before this extra course can be requested. **Instructions for this process are on the back of this letter.**

Summer school is not the best option for students hoping to accelerate through coursework, and must consult me before considering any summer school course. If a student is passionate about science, engineering, or related fields, they should consider exploring options other than a Biology course over the summer.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ed Wisner

Curriculum Coordinator for Science



BHS Science Courses – for 11th Graders

To request courses for next year, please fill out this form and return it to your teacher by the due date. Your science teacher will sign this document to signify that the choices are appropriate. Then this form will be sent to your counselor for approval as they enter the additional course request. Please note that your **elective credits** need to be considered when trying to add an additional course, and that **US History** is an 11th grade graduation requirement. Finally, once the student portal opens, **you** will enter any alternate choices to help create an optimal schedule.

Additional Course Request

Counselor Enters

Full Year Courses

- _____ SC4140 AP Physics 1&2
- _____ SC4141 AP Physics C
- _____ SC4240 AP Chemistry
- _____ SC4320 Anatmy/Physio
- _____ SC4330 Anatmy/Physio H
- _____ SC4430 Bio II H
- _____ SC4440 AP Biology
- _____ SC4540 AP Enviro Sci
- _____ SC4520 Env Sci & Society
- _____ SC4530 Env Sci & Society H
- _____ SC5020 Astronomy
- _____ SC5030 Astronomy H
- _____ SC5130 Body/Mind H
- _____ SC5530 Eng By Dsgn
- _____ SC5620 Marine Biology
- _____ SC5630 Marine Biology H

Semester Courses

- _____ SC1300 Drawing For Understanding
in Field Science Credit
- _____ SC5820 Forensic Science
- _____ SC5830 Forensic Science H
- _____ SC5920 Genetics
- _____ SC5930 Genetics H

Student Name (Please Print)

Due Date

Alternative Choices

Student Enters

Full Year Courses

- _____ SC4140 AP Physics 1&2
- _____ SC4141 AP Physics C
- _____ SC4240 AP Chemistry
- _____ SC4320 Anatmy/Physio
- _____ SC4330 Anatmy/Physio H
- _____ SC4430 Bio II H
- _____ SC4440 AP Biology
- _____ SC4540 AP Enviro Sci
- _____ SC4520 Env Sci & Society
- _____ SC4530 Env Sci & Society H
- _____ SC5020 Astronomy
- _____ SC5030 Astronomy H
- _____ SC5130 Body/Mind H
- _____ SC5530 Eng By Dsgn
- _____ SC5620 Marine Biology
- _____ SC5630 Marine Biology H

Semester Courses

- _____ SC1300 Drawing For Understanding
in Field Science Credit
- _____ SC5820 Forensic Science
- _____ SC5830 Forensic Science H
- _____ SC5920 Genetics
- _____ SC5930 Genetics H

Teacher Signature

Counselor Name (Please Print)