

## Advising NSCI Majors

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### Two B.S. degrees:

**NSCI** – referred to as “regular NSCI degree”

**NSCI Education** - with grades 6-12 teaching licensure in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics

### Regular NSCI Degree

1. Need a minimum of 122 hours to graduate
2. Need a minimum of 50 hours of science (BIOL, CHEM, NSCI, PHYS)
  - a. Of these 50 hours, at least 30 hours must be numbered 200 or higher (200+)
    - Of these 30 hours at the 200+ level, at least 14 hours must be numbered 300 or higher (300+)
  - b. All majors must take CHEM 113/L and CHEM 114/L. CHEM 101 does not count as science hours. It counts as a free elective.
  - c. A student must take either BIOL 111/L or BIOL 109/L. (Most, if not all, majors take BIOL 111/L and then BIOL 112/L so they can take more BIOL courses.)
  - d. A student must take a minimum of 8 hours of introductory physics. This can be PHYS 201/L followed by PHYS 202/L or PHYS 150/L followed by PHYS 251/L. (Most, if not all, majors take 201/L and 202/L since this is the sequence Biology majors take. This sequence does not require calculus (MATH 131). PHYS 150 has a prerequisite of MATH 131.)
  - e. Note that these introductory science courses listed above do contribute to the 50 hours of science. PHYS 201/L and 202/L also contribute to the 30 hours of 200+ science.
  - f. All majors must take NSCI 410. This course is a one-credit-hour course offered only in the fall semester. It can be taken during the junior or senior year, preferably during the senior year. It does satisfy the Statistics GER. It does contribute 1 hour of 300+ science.

- g. Majors are not required to take organic chemistry (CHEM 211/L and 212/L). If they do not, this does limit what upper-level biology courses they can take. Many of the upper-level biology courses that do not require organic chemistry are offered every other year so one must be careful in planning out when to take these courses. You can see in the Catalog what BIOL courses do not require organic chemistry. Presently, these include BIOL 303, 304, 312 (although organic chemistry is recommended), 335, 340, 346, 369, 381, 412, 413, 414, 430.
- h. A research project is not required for graduation. However, a student can get two credit hours of 400-level science for an independent research project by taking NSCI 412. The student must get permission to take the class. It is up to the student to find a research supervisor.

### 3. MATH requirement

MATH 117 & 106 **or** MATH 117 & 131 **or** MATH 129 (6-hour course that combines topics in 117 and 131)

\* If a student enters CBU ready to take MATH 131 and takes MATH 131, then no additional MATH course is required for the degree.

### 4. GPA Requirement

- a. 2.0 or higher overall
- b. 2.0 or higher in the minimum 50 hours of science described in 2.a. (referred to as Major Requirements on the checklist)

### 5. Free Electives and Minors

Courses other than GER courses, science courses, and the MATH courses described above are counted as free electives. With the usual two MATH courses and the minimum of 50 hours of science, this leaves 42 hours of free electives. Many NSCI majors earn a minor from a different School, such as a minor in Psychology. A NSCI major cannot declare a minor in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics.

## NSCI Education Degree

This degree has similar requirements to the regular NSCI degree but there are some differences.

- The free electives of the regular degree are now filled with specific EDUC courses and a few other courses so that licensure can be awarded after four years.
- The minimum total number of hours is increased from 122 to 126.
- MATH 131 (Calculus I) is required.
- A minimum of 24 hours must be in the subject of licensure. For licensure in Chemistry or Physics, majors must choose PHYS 150/L, 251/L. For licensure in Biology, majors choose PHYS 201/L, 202/L.
- Overall GPA must be 2.75 or higher
  - 2.0 or higher in the minimum 50 hours of science described in 2.a. (Major Requirements on checklist)

## Checklists

Degree Works usually does not work correctly for the NSCI degrees. Incorrect information concerning the meeting of the science requirements is displayed. The problem is that the program cannot split credit hours from a single course so as to meet the minimums of 50 hours of science with 30 hours at the 200+ level and 14 hours at the 300+ level. Thus, some science courses appear as “drop through” courses and the science requirements appear as unfulfilled. Because of this, paper checklists are the better tool to use in my opinion. These checklists are posted on my home page at <http://facstaff.cbu.edu/jvarrian>. Click on “Degree Checklists”.

## Graduation Audits

I invite you to give me the graduation audit and I'll do it first to save you some time. I don't mind doing it. Once I've done the audit, I'll give it to you to go over and sign. It's fine if you would rather do the audit first but please try to do it in a timely fashion.

## Questions

Please contact me if you have any questions about one of your NSCI advisees or any of their courses. I am here to help.

Thank you for helping to advise our NSCI majors!