Biological Sciences (Biology and Society), BS

How does science shape the way we understand our world? Explore the social context of science while developing the skills needed to navigate the ethical complexities of scientific discovery. Discover how policy decisions are shaped by biological research and investigate the significance of the sciences in understanding our complex world.

Program Description

The BS program in biological sciences with a concentration in biology and society focuses on training biology students to understand the social context of their science and to ask how and why a biological problem has been and should be studied. Students explore the ways in which policy decisions shape and are shaped by biological research and they investigate the meaning and significance of the life sciences in understanding a complex world.

The biology and society curriculum is highly individualized. This unique degree is home to world-class researchers and teachers in diverse fields, including bioscience ethics, history and philosophy of science, science communication, science education and science policy, all brought together under one program. Students have the opportunity to work with many renowned scholars in independent study and research projects.

This program is available as an accelerated degree program: https://sols.asu.edu/degree-programs/accelerated-bachelor-master-science.

In addition to the guidelines in the Concurrent Program Options section below, students interested in pursuing concurrent or second baccalaureate degrees in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are advised to visit The College's website for more information and requirements. https://thecollege.asu.edu/concurrent-and-second-baccalaureate-degrees

At a Glance
• **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
• **Location:** Tempe campus or Online, ASU Local

• **Additional Program Fee:** Yes  
• **Second Language Requirement:** No

• **First Required Math Course:** MAT 251 - Calculus for Life Sciences

• **Math Intensity:** Moderate

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**Required Courses (Major Map)**

2022 - 2023 Major Map (On-campus)  
2022 - 2023 Major Map (Online)  
Major Map (Archives)

**Concurrent Program Options**

Students pursuing concurrent degrees (also known as a double major) earn two distinct degrees and receive two diplomas. Working with their academic advisors, students can create their own concurrent degree combination. Some combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum.

**Accelerated Program Options**

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Biology (Biology and Society), MS
- Biology, MS
- Global Management (Creative Industries and Design Thinking), MGM
- Global Management (Digital Audience Strategy), MGM
- Global Management (Global Affairs), MGM
- Global Management (Global Business), MGM
- Global Management (Global Development and Innovation), MGM
- Global Management (Global Digital Transformation), MGM
- Global Management (Global Entrepreneurship), MGM
- Global Management (Global Health Care Delivery), MGM
- Global Management (Global Legal Studies), MGM
- Global Management (Integrated Health Care), MGM
Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Admission Requirements**

**General University Admission Requirements:**
All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

[Freshman] [Transfer] [International] [Readmission]

**Change of Major Requirements**

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Students should refer to [https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu](https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu) for information about how to change a major to this program.

**Attend Online**

**ASU Online**

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information [here](#).

**ASU Local**

It is now possible to earn an ASU degree with ASU Local, an integrated college experience in which students take advantage of in-person success coaching and programming experiences on site while completing one of 130+ undergraduate online degree programs, all of which come with online faculty interaction and tutoring support. Those interested may learn more about ASU Local [here](#).

**Transfer Options**
ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use MyPath2ASU™ to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and they help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/MyPath2ASU.

**Global Opportunities**

**Global Experience**
When studying abroad, students are able to engage in community service and outreach all around the world, which can help their graduate and professional program applications stand out. Students experience unique biological environments and gain an understanding of worldwide differences in the human condition. Study abroad programs exist across the globe, programs such as a summer in Panama and a year in Ireland. https://goglobal.asu.edu/

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends the following study abroad programs for students majoring in biological sciences with a concentration in biology and society: https://goglobal.asu.edu/students/major/sls/biological-sciences-biology-society.

**Career Opportunities**

Biology and society students gain the historical, philosophical, political and ethical perspectives needed to explore interactions between the life sciences and related, complex human issues. As a result, the program contributes to better informed and more effective teachers, writers, policymakers, clinicians and researchers in areas related to biology, medicine and society.

As a result of the individualized, skill-based curriculum, biology and society graduates are eligible for a broad range of career options. Most have chosen to pursue professional degrees in medicine, law, public health or public policy, or to pursue graduate study in biology, ethics, education or history and philosophy of science. Graduates enter the workforce, whether in academia, industry, government or clinical practice, with a deep sensitivity to the complexity of biology in society and the skill to navigate that complexity throughout their careers.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bioinformatics Scientist</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>$85,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences Professor</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>$85,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Worker</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Specialist</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>$73,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Teacher</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>$62,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>$126,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Scientist</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>$82,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Scientist</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>$91,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Services Manager</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>$104,280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

🌞 Bright Outlook  🌿 Green Occupation

**Contact Information**

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