

BSc GENERAL PROGRAM

MAJOR & MINOR OR DOUBLE MAJOR
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2012

This Academic Planning Guide highlights major points only regarding admission and transfer. Students are advised to read the university and RDC calendars, and the Alberta Transfer Guide for other necessary information. Some courses listed may have prerequisites; refer to [Course Descriptions](#). Access this guide online: www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BSc HONORS, SPECIALIZATION, AND GENERAL PROGRAMS AT UOFA

The 4-year **Honors programs** are the most desired route for students continuing to Master of Science (MSc) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and a research or academic career. Honors students focus on their major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a Specialization or General program.

The 4-year **Specialization programs** do not concentrate on one subject to the same extent as the Honors program. Specialization students take most of their courses in the major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a General program. The Specialization degree can provide the background to help you proceed to a higher degree, but its primary function is to provide a comprehensive education at the undergraduate level.

Transfer admission to Honors and Specialization programs requires a minimum course load and GPA in each year of post-secondary study preceding admission. Students wishing to move into these programs must meet the requirements regardless of their original/current program of study.

The 4-year **General program** provides a diverse education in more than one branch of study. Each student must complete a Science major and also a second Science major *or* complete a minor. The minor may be in Science or in Agricultural, Life & Environmental Science, Arts or Business. The General program allows for subsequent transfer to Specialization and Honors programs and may be used to prepare for admission to professional programs. Please note that not all major and minor subjects are available at RDC and the second year of study is not always available at RDC.

ATTENTION:

Students enrolled in BSc General who intend to transfer to Honors programs in Biochemistry, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physiology, or Psychology must complete *30 (30 credits) in *each* Fall/Winter preceding admission to the Honors program at UofA. Students who intend to transfer to a different Honors program must complete *24 *each* Fall/Winter preceding admission to the Honors program at UofA. Students enrolled in BSc General who intend to transfer to a Specialization program should consult the appropriate program and transfer admission requirements for the specific program as a minimum GPA and course load in every academic year is required for admission. Consult appropriate admission requirements in the UofA Calendar, the RDC academic planning guides, and meet with an academic advisor.

Find admission requirements for all Faculty of Science programs in [Admissions Chart 5](#) of the UofA Calendar.

MAJORS

A minimum of *36 (36 credits) to a maximum of *48 are required in the major with no more than *18 at the junior level (100-level at UofA). At least *12 must be 300-level or higher taken while registered in the Faculty of Science. You may complete two majors or one major with a minor. *A minimum grade average of 2.30 is required on all courses in the major.*

A Science major consists of science courses taken from ONE of the following subject areas:

1. **Biological Sciences:** at RDC, choose courses from BIOC, BIOL, GENE, MICR, ZOOL
2. **Chemistry:** choose courses from CHEM, BIOC
3. **Computer Sciences:** computer courses for this major are not available at RDC.
4. **Earth & Atmospheric Sciences:** at RDC, take GEOG 230 *and* GEOG 231
5. **Mathematical Sciences:** choose courses from CMPT 201, MATH, STAT
6. **Mathematics:** choose courses from MATH
7. **Physical Sciences:** at RDC, choose courses from ASTR, BIOC, CHEM, PHYS
8. **Physics:** at RDC, choose courses from ASTR, PHYS
9. **Science Psychology:** PSYC 260, 312, 368, 369, 375, 377 (PSYC 261 will fulfill an Arts Option)
10. **Statistics:** STAT 251

Note: BIOC courses will be counted either as Biological Sciences or Physical Sciences or Chemistry.

MINORS

At least *24 and not more than *36 are required in the minor with no more than *12 at the junior-level (100-level at UofA). A Science minor consists of Science courses taken from one of the subjects named above (see *Majors*). A Science minor cannot be in the same subject area as the major. In a Science minor, at least *6 must be in 300-level or higher courses taken while registered in the Faculty of Science at the UofA. Students may choose a minor in Agriculture, Human Ecology, or Nutrition in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences ([Section 193.1.4](#) in UofA Calendar); the Faculty of Arts ([Section 44.0](#)); or the Faculty of Business (Sections [15.15.2](#) and [193.1.5](#)). If the minor is in Arts, additional requirements as specified by the Arts Department may be required.

MAJORS AND MINORS AVAILABLE AT RDC:

Students with majors in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematical Sciences, Physics, and Statistics and Applied Probability may wish to transfer to UofA for their second year of study due to limited senior-level course offerings at RDC. Students with a Minor in Business or Computing Science are advised to apply to their program at UofA after Year 1. Courses required for the three minors in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences are not available at RDC; depending on your major, you may take one or two years at RDC.

CHOOSING COURSES FOR YOUR MAJOR AND MINOR:

The major and minor may not share courses from the same department. For example, neither of the following two major/minor combinations is allowed: Earth Science/Arts Geography or Science Psychology/Arts Psychology. Courses in a major or minor may not overlap. For example, if the major is Math Sciences, and the minor is Statistics, the major may be made up of Math courses and Computing Science courses, but no Statistic courses. The minor would consist exclusively of Statistic courses.

YEAR 1: JUNIOR-LEVEL CORE COURSES

6 credits: Junior English ENGL 219/220

6 credits: Jr. Physical Sciences ASTR 205, CHEM 211, 212, PHYS 205 or 241; PHYS 226 or 247

6 credits: Jr. Computer, Math, &/or Statistics ^{1,5,6} CMPT 201, MATH 202 (or 203), 204, 221, STAT 251

6 credits: Jr. Biological Sciences, Science Geography, &/or Science Psychology ^{2,3} BIOL 217, 218, GEOG 230, GEOG 231, PSYC 260

6 credits: Jr. Arts &/or Science Options ^{4 to 7} _____

NOTES:

1. Students with a grade of 70% or higher in Math 31 who will take calculus: take MATH 203 instead of MATH 202.
2. Students with a major or minor in **EARTH & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES** and other students wanting credit in EAS 100/105 at UofA: complete *both* **GEOG 230 and GEOG 231** before transferring to UofA or take both EAS 100/105 at

UofA. If you will take EAS 100/105 at UofA, keep in mind that *42 at a junior-level is the maximum allowed in a Faculty of Science degree.

3. Those taking BIOL 217 &/or BIOL 218: schedule BIOL 218 in Fall term and BIOL 217 in Winter term.
4. Choose transferable junior-level Options from the following Arts &/or Sciences courses: ANTH, ASTR, ART, BIOL (not 209), CHEM, CLAS, CMPT 201 only, DRAM, ECON, FILM, FREN, GEOG (see note 2), HIST, MATH, MUSE, MUSI, PHIL, PHYS, POLI, PSYC, SOCI, SPAN, STAT. Junior-level means the course transfers to UofA at a 100-level; use [Alberta Transfer Guide](#) to determine credit transfer and course level. Seats in Art, Dram, Muse, and Musi may not always be available to students not enrolled in those majors. Do not take courses outside of Arts and Science (i.e. ACCT, BADM, COMM, KNSS, etc.)
5. Students who will take a **COMPUTING SCIENCE minor** are advised to take MATH 202 (or 203); CMPT 201 is recommended.
6. Students applying to the **BUSINESS Minor**: take ECON 201/202 as Arts Options and MATH 202 (or 203).
7. Students wishing to complete a **minor in AGRICULTURE**: take ECON 201/202 as Arts Options in year one if you will take AREC 200 (Current Economic Issues for Agriculture & Food) in year two at UofA.

YEAR 2 COURSES

Generally, the second year will consist of the following course work (*30) taken over two terms:

12 credits in courses towards your MAJOR ^{1, 2}

6 credits in courses towards your MINOR ²

12 credits in courses that can count towards ARTS &/or SCIENCE OPTIONS, towards your MAJOR &/or towards your MINOR ^{2; 2-5 above}

NOTES:

1. A minimum grade average of 2.30 is required on all courses in the major.
2. Not more than *18 towards the major can be taken at a junior-level (100-level at UofA), not more than *12 towards the minor can be taken at a junior-level with a maximum *total* of *42 in all courses (major, minor and options) taken at a junior-level. Any junior-level course in excess of *42 will not be counted towards a Science degree. Do not take option courses outside the Faculties of Arts and Science (i.e. ACCT, BADM, COMM, KNSS, etc.).

TRANSFER CHECKLIST:

1. **Students who have completed *24 (24 credits) or more** of postsecondary courses transferable to BSc General Sciences require a minimum GPA of 2.2. In addition, a minimum GPA of 2.3 is required on all courses taken towards the major.
2. **Students who have completed less than *24** of postsecondary courses transferable to BSc General Sciences will be considered for admission on the basis of both their high school matriculation GPA (minimum 70%) and post-secondary GPA (minimum of 2.2). In addition, a minimum GPA of 2.3 is required on all courses taken towards the major.
3. **Spring term courses:** a spring term course may be taken in year of transfer if it is not required for admission to the program. The grade will not be calculated in the AGPA nor will it count towards Fall/Winter course load. Ensure the transcript submitted shows registration in the spring course.
4. **Application to the Business Minor** differs from the above; see *Admission Information for Business Minor* on page 4 of this guide.
5. **A minimum grade of C-** must be achieved in order for course credit to be transferable. However, while courses with grades of D or F will not transfer, they remain on your transcript and will be used in calculation of your GPA.
6. **Conditional Admission:** If you have higher than average standing in your post-secondary courses, you may be eligible for conditional admission. Official high school transcripts and unofficial transcripts of all post-secondary course

work to date, including all final grades, first/Fall term results and second/Winter term registration are required by March 15th for conditional admission.

7. **Course Attempts:** Students attending UofA are allowed to attempt a course no more than two times and cannot retake a course in which a passing grade was received. However, UofA honours the decisions of other institutions with respect to their students, so if a student attempts a course twice at RDC (withdrawal, failing grade or non-transferable grade), UofA will accept the third attempt (if it is a C- or better) when determining transfer credit.

It should be noted that in calculating the AGPA, UofA will use all grades obtained in the most recent terms containing at least *24, including both a failing/non-transferable grade and a transferable grade in the same course. The first grade of C- or better received in a course is the only grade accepted for that course. Therefore, repeating a course for a higher grade is not advisable. If a student truly believes that he/she needs to repeat a course (in which a transferable grade was already earned) master the material sufficiently to successfully continue in the program, it is recommended that the student audit the course.

8. **Academic Standing:** If you earn or have earned a GPA below 2.0 in any academic year of post-secondary education you are strongly advised to consult the UofA Calendar and contact the Faculty of Science **now** concerning your future admission to programs in the faculty. See [UofA Calendar](#) 15.15.7(3) and 15.15.7(4) and contact information in *How to Find* more Information.
9. **Application deadline:** May 1st **Transcript deadline for transfer students:** June 15th
10. **Regarding course transfer to the UofA & Augustana Faculty:** When checking course transfer to UofA, please note that courses which have *AU* as the first two letters of the course abbreviation in the Alberta Transfer Guide will transfer only to the UofA Augustana Faculty in Camrose. In order for a course to also transfer to other UofA faculties, there must be another entry indicating transfer as a course not beginning with *AU* See example below.

CMPT 214 = UofA CMPUT 114 (3) OR AUCSC 1xx (3)

CMPT 261 = UofA AUCSC 1xx (3)

CMPT 214 is transferable to all UofA faculties, including Augustana Faculty. CMPT 261 is accepted by Augustana Faculty only and will not transfer for credit to other faculties at UofA.

ADMISSION INFORMATION FOR MINOR IN BUSINESS:

Admission of BSc General students to the minor in Business is competitive. Admission to the minor is by application at the end of Year 1 with preference given to students who apply at that point in their program. For that reason, students wanting a Minor in Business should transfer to UofA for year two of the program. Application deadline: May 1.

Applicants to BSc General with a Minor in Business must present an AGPA of at least 2.3 and a minimum 2.3 GPA on the following courses (*24 in total): **ENGL 219/220; ECON 201/202; MATH 202 or MATH 203**; one of: **MATH, STAT, CMPT 201**; and either *6 in Physical Sciences: **Physics or Chemistry** *or* *6 in Science taken from: **Biology, Science Geography (GEOG 230, 231 only), or Science Psychology** (i.e. **PSYC 260**).

In ranking applicants for admission to the quota, 40% weight is given to the applicant's AGPA and 60% weight to the applicant's average on the required courses listed above. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission. If an applicant has repeated a course, the first passing grade received is used to calculate the applicant's ranking. With the exception of ECON 202, applicants who do not have all the required prerequisites noted above, but who have a competitive GPA are encouraged to apply. If admitted, such students will make up any course deficiencies during the first Fall/Winter in the Business Minor program.

ALL BACHELOR OF SCIENCE STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO:

1. Consult [Course Descriptions](#) for possible course pre-requisites,
2. Check [Alberta Transfer Guide](#) concerning course credit transfer to UofA, and
3. Consult the [University of Alberta Calendar](#) for admission and program information.

HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

[Science Department](#)

Warren Elgersma, Chairperson
Office: 1607-E 403-343-4052
warren.elgersma@rdc.ab.ca
http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about_rdc/academic_departments/sciences

[Academic Advising](#)

Academic Advising Centre: Room 1102
advisors@rdc.ab.ca 403-342-3400
http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising

[RDC Website](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca>

[RDC Timetable](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca/timetable>

[Alberta Transfer Guide](#)

<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca>

[Faculty of Science, UofA](#)

<http://www.science.ualberta.ca> 1-800-358-8314

[University of Alberta](#)

<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

PLEASE NOTE:

Be aware you are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at RDC and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with an academic advisor if you have any questions.

The function of academic advisors is to provide students with information and resources that enable them to make informed decisions relevant to their education. These resources include the RDC Calendar, the Academic Planning Guide for your chosen program and destination university, the Alberta Transfer Guide, and the calendar and contact information for your destination university. Academic advisors will assist you in interpreting information from these resources or refer you to your destination university if appropriate. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.