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Academic Policies

Early Progress Policy

Majors in the School of Natural Sciences are competitive and space is limited. Students must make appropriate degree progress to remain in any Natural Sciences major. Students in the Natural Sciences must meet the following requirements to continue in the School:

All students must pass the following courses with a C- or better, **prior to the start of the third regular (Fall/Spring) semester.** Students may repeat a course only one time (for a total of two attempts to earn a C- or better).

- Either MATH 05 or MATH 011 or MATH 021
- Either CHEM 001 or 002

Students who have been removed from the major for academic reasons must meet the following requirements in order to petition to be re-admitted to the School of Natural Sciences.

- Cumulative University of California grade point average of at least 2.0
- Current semester grade point average of at least 2.0
- Major grade point average of 2.5
- Completion of all lower division courses with grades of C- or higher

If students do not complete these requirements, they may take these courses at another institution and petition to be readmitted to the School of Natural Sciences.

General Education

In addition to University requirements, students pursuing a degree within the School of Natural Sciences' are required to complete at minimum 120 units of general education and major requirements to satisfy degree requirements.

Lower Division General Education Requirements

- Students must complete all lower-division general education requirements with a "C-" or better, if the course is a pre-requisite to a major requirement.

Upper Division General Education Requirements

- Students must complete all upper-division general education requirements with a "C-" or better, if the course is a pre-requisite to a major requirement.

Major Course Requirements

- Students must complete all major pre-requisites with a letter grade option.
- Students must complete all major pre-requisites with a C- or better.
- Students must complete all major requirements with a C- or better and maintain a 2.0 GPA in all major course work.

Minor Course Requirements

To declare a minor, students must have an overall grade-point average of 2.0 (C) or better. Students should consult with the NS Advising Office to officially declare the minor and plan their courses.
The following guidelines must be adhered to:

- At least five courses, four of which must be upper division, must be taken for a letter grade.
- At least three of the required courses must be taken at UC Merced
- Only one course may be used to satisfy two minor programs' requirements
- Only one course may be used to satisfy both a minor and a major requirement.
- Work for the minor must be completed within the 150 unit maximum limit for graduation.
- If the student's major and minor are in different schools, the higher unit maximum will apply.
- Students must consult the UC Merced General Catalog for prerequisites to required courses.
- The minor will appear on the student's transcript and diploma.

Minor Course GPA Requirements

- Students must complete all minor requirements with a C or better and must maintain a 2.0 GPA in all minor coursework.