

Natural Science

Associate of Science

67-68 credit hours

The Associate of Science Degree in Natural Science is intended to provide the graduate with a foundational understanding of the core sciences that will be universally transferable to any four-year institution. This course of study includes instruction in biology, chemistry and physics. Students may choose an emphasis in Wildlife or Conservation Ecology, which is intended to transfer directly to the Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology program at New Mexico State University, and which will provide graduates with the skills necessary to pursue entry-level positions in natural resources management or related fields. Students not interested in pursuing further studies or employment in natural resources may instead opt for the Human Biology emphasis, which is designed to transfer to four-year programs in medical or related fields including nursing, pre-medicine, pharmacology, or genetics. Graduates completing the Human Biology emphasis will be qualified for entry-level positions in the healthcare industry. Students working toward this degree will be eligible for a Common Core Certificate of Completion.

Upon program completion students will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills.
- Exhibit basic understanding of mathematics and statistics.
- Display foundational knowledge of biology, chemistry and physics.
- Apply their learning to pursue entry-level employment in natural resources management or healthcare related fields.

Any student who is ineligible for state, national or industry licensure is ineligible for entry into this program.

Institutional and Related Requirements – 7 hours

UNIV 101 - Freshman Seminar – 3

MATH 104 - Preparatory Algebra – 4

New Mexico General Education Common Core (NMGECC) – 36 or 37 hours

I. Communicating Effectively – 9 hours

Required Courses:

ENG 102 - English Composition – 3

ENG 104 - English Composition & Research – 3

COMM 101 - Interpersonal Communication – 3

or COMM 102 - Public Speaking – 3

II. Understanding and Applying Mathematical Principles – 4 hours

Required Course:

MATH 119 - College Algebra – 3

III. Science – 8 hours

Required courses:

BIOL 154/L - General Biology: Subcellular through Organismic Biology/Lab – 4

CHEM 151/L - General Chemistry I/Lab – 4

IV. Social Science – 6 hours

Recommended Courses:

PSCI 102 - American National Government – 3

PSY 101 - Introductory Psychology – 3

SOC 101 - Introductory Sociology – 3

or any two Social Sciences from different disciplines listed in the NMGECC

V. Fine Arts and Humanities – 6 or 7 hours

a. Fine Arts – 3 hours

Recommended courses:

ART 131 - Art Appreciation – 3

MUS 113 - Music Appreciation – 3

THTR 121 - Beginning Acting – 3

or any Fine Arts course listed in the NMGECC

b. Humanities – 3 or 4 hours

Recommended Courses:

HIST 101 - Survey of American History to 1877 – 3

HIST 102 - Survey of American History since 1877 – 3

HIST 121 - Survey of Western Civilization to 1500 – 3

HIST 122 - Survey of Western Civilization since 1500 – 3

SPAN 101 - Beginning Spanish – 4

or any Humanities course listed in the NMGECC

Plus an additional course:

Choose an additional Social Science (IV), Humanities or Fine Arts (V) course from the NMGECC – 3 hours

Program Requirements – 16 hours

BIOL 155/L - General Biology II/Lab – 4

CHEM 152/L- General Chemistry II/Lab-4

NATR 110 – Introduction to Natural Resource Management – 3

NATR 299 - Programmatic Capstone – 1

PHYS 151/L - General Physics I/Lab – 4

Electives – 8 hours

Recommended Conservation Ecology/Wildlife Biology concentration – 8 hours

BIOL 266/L - Ecology of the Southwest Uplands/Lab – 4

or BIOL 288/L - Introduction to Tropical Biology/Lab – 4

BIOL 110/L - Introduction to Wildlife/Fisheries Sciences/Lab – 4

or NATR 255/L - Principles of Fish and Wildlife Management/Lab – 4

Or

Recommended Human Biology concentration – 8 hours

BIOL 209/L - Anatomy and Physiology I/Lab – 4

BIOL 210/L - Anatomy and Physiology II/Lab – 4