The Brandeis University major in Biology has been revised for students matriculating in Fall 2013 and later. **Current students may elect to adopt the new major (see below) or may choose to fulfill the prior degree requirements.** The new major is designed to provide broadened exposure to biology through a new set of introductory courses that can be taken as early as the first year. A number of other changes make the degree program more flexible and lessen the physical science requirements for the BA degree. The features of the new major are outlined below:

- **Core required courses** for the major for both the BA and BS degree include the introductory series **BIOL14a** (Genetics and Genomics), **BIOL15b** (Cells and Organisms) and **BIOL16a** (Evolution and Biodiversity). These courses have no co-requisites or pre-requisites and can be taken as early as the freshman year. **BIOL14a replaces old course BIOL22a (Genetics and Molecular Biology) and BIOL15b replaces BIOL22b (Cell Structure and Function).**

- **BIOL18ab**, Introductory Biology Laboratory courses will remain as a requirement, typically taken in the sophomore year. These courses will retain a pre-requisite of **CHEM18a** or **CHEM19a**.

- A year of General Chemistry (**CHEM11ab** or **CHEM15ab**) and associated Laboratories (**CHEM18ab** or **CHEM19ab**) and a year of Organic Chemistry (**CHEM25ab**) and associated Laboratories (**CHEM29ab**) remain as requirements for both BA and BS degrees in Biology.

- A year of Physics (**PHYS10ab** or **PHYS11ab** or **PHYS15ab**) and associated Laboratories (**PHYS18ab** or **PHYS19ab**) is required for the BS degree in Biology. **Physics will no longer be required for the BA degree**, although the courses may fulfill School of Science elective credit (see below).

- **There is no longer a requirement for BCHM100a for the BS degree in Biology.** The course will count as a Biology Elective towards the BA or BS degree.

- The BA degree requires one quantitative course and the BS degree requires two quantitative courses. The list of approved quantitative courses has been expanded to include additional courses, including those in computer science (**COSI**).

- **The BS degree will require 6 additional elective courses.** (This is one more than the prior degree required.) The **BA degree will require 5 additional elective courses**. These courses should be selected from a list of Biology Electives or School of Science Electives. (The new list of electives is more extensive than the list for the prior degree). **No more than 2 courses for either degree may come from the School of Science Elective list.** As in the old major, one semester of **BIOL93** plus one semester of **BIOL99** or two semesters of **BIOL99** may count as one elective, with permission of the biology department honors coordinator and the
biology undergraduate advising head. **BISC courses or NPYS11b will no longer be accepted for elective credit.**

Students who matriculated before Fall 2013 have the option of completing **EITHER** the pre-2013 Biology major **OR** the new 2013 Biology major. However, **ALL** the requirements of the individual major must be fulfilled; students may not mix and match requirements from old and new systems. **The BIOL22ab series will no longer be offered.** For students seeking to fulfill the pre-2013 major, BIOL15b may be used to replace BIOL22b and BIOL14a may be used to replace BIOL22a for the core course requirements, and BIOL16a may replace BIOL60b as elective credit.

Whether or not they are pursuing the old or new Biology major, **sophomores should enroll in BIOL15b (and laboratory BIOL18b) for the Fall 2013 semester and in BIOL14a (and laboratory BIOL18a) for the Spring 2014 semester to fulfill the core requirements.**