Questions you may have about the new Biology curriculum:

I am a current student--should I switch to the new major or keep the old major?

It depends on your interests and what courses you have already taken and plan to take. If you want to pursue a BA degree and don’t want to take Physics, it may make sense to switch to the new major since Physics is not required for the new BA degree. If you have taken a BISC course or NPSY11b (prior to BIOL22ab), you may want to stick with the old major, since the BISC or NPSY11b can count as an elective in the old system but not the new system. If you want a BS degree and have taken or plan to take BCHM100a, the old major requires one fewer elective and so may be easier to fulfill. If you have taken BIOL60b (Evolution) and don’t want to take BCHM100a, the new BS degree may work better for you.

I am a current student but have already taken BIOL22ab. Can I switch to the new major?

Yes. BIOL22a will count as the equivalent as BIOL14a and BIOL22b will count as BIOL15b. If you have taken BIOL60b (Evolution), this will fulfill the requirement for BIOL16a. If you have not, you would need to take BIOL16a. Be aware that BISC courses and NPSY11b no longer serve as electives under the new major and that 6 electives are required for the BS degree, 5 electives for the BA degree.

I am a current student but have not taken BIOL22ab or the BIOL18ab labs. I would like to stay with the old Biology major. How do I proceed?

You should take BIOL15b in the Fall and laboratory BIOL18b in the Spring. BIOL15b will count as the equivalent of BIOL22b and BIOL14a will count as the equivalent of BIOL22a. You may also take BIOL16a at a later time, if you wish, and it will count as an elective.

I am a current freshman taking BIOL22a this semester. I would like to complete the old Biology major. What should I do?

You should enroll in BIOL15b in the Fall as well as the BIOL18b lab in the Fall and BIOL18a lab in the Spring. You could start taking Biology electives in the Spring.

I am a current freshman taking BIOL15b. I would like to complete the old major, what should I take next year?

The BIOL15b course you are taking now will count as the equivalent of BIOL22b. You should enroll in the labs, BIOL18b in Fall and BIOL18a in Spring. You should take BIOL14a as an equivalent to BIOL22a, in the Spring semester. You could, if you wish, take BIOL16a in the Fall, which would count towards elective credit.

I am a pre-medical student but am not planning on a Biology major. Which of the introductory courses should I take?

Most medical schools require a year of Biology and Laboratory. BIOL14a and BIOL15b include study of most of the “competencies” that are covered on the MCAT exams. BIOL18ba will fulfill the laboratory component.