Biology FAQ
Commonly asked questions listed in alphabetical order
Access Lehman Department of Biology at http://www.lehman.edu/academics/biology/index.php

Anatomy and Physiology – Is Bio 181 and Bio 182 counted towards the biology major? **ANS:** Yes, the two courses are combined to give 4 credits for Bio 228. However, either course alone does not count towards the biology major.

Bio 181, 182, 230 – I have a question about the nursing prerequisites or I have a transfer evaluation form that must be signed. **ANS:** for all transfer credits, questions or issues regarding the pre-nursing courses, contact the pre-nursing adviser.

Biochemistry – Can I take the biochemistry course through the Chemistry Department? **ANS:** Yes, but we will only accept Che 444 (lecture) + Che 447 (lab) as equivalent to Bio 400. You can take Che 444 and Che 447 during the same semester or in different semesters. Che 444 alone or Che 444 + Che 245 (introductory lab) are not accepted as equivalent to Bio 400.

Calculus Math Requirements - Do I need to take Mat 175 and Mat 155? **ANS:** The calculus lab (Mat 155) is not a requirement of the biology major, but I recommend that you take both courses to better understand the material and do better in your major. **Note that Mat 155 is not a required course, it must be taken in addition to the 12-credit minimum requirement for retaining a full-time status.** For example, if you register for Mat 155, you must register (and maintain) at least 12 credits that are required in your major or general requirements.

Change of class section – How do I switch my class section or how do I register for two classes with only a 10-minute overlap between the class schedules? **ANS:** If you have a scheduling conflict, you must choose which course you want to take, the adviser is not authorized to override any scheduling conflicts or switch your section to another that is closed.

Evaluation of Transfer Credits - How do I have my transfer credits evaluated? **ANS:** If you need signature for anatomy and physiology or microbiology courses, contact the pre-nursing adviser. For any other biology course, either schedule an appointment to see the biology adviser or scan the form and email the biology adviser. To have your courses evaluated, you must bring the course descriptions in English with you or email it to the adviser. The adviser will evaluate, sign and email the form back to you.

Grades - Can I graduate if I have earned a D in one of my major requirements? **ANS:** Yes, you can if your major GPA and your cumulative GPA is 2.0 or above.

Honors – How do I graduate with departmental honors? **ANS:** You must achieve a cumulative index of 3.2 and an index of 3.5 in the biology major for a minimum of 24 credits of courses taken at Lehman College. You must also complete Bio 490 with a faculty mentor.

Microbiology – Can I take Bio 230 if I am a biology major? **ANS:** No. Bio 230 is not accepted towards the biology major. Biology majors must take Bio 331.

Missing Transfer Credits – DegreeWorks is showing that I am missing transfer credits for some of my science courses, even though I passed those courses. What can I do? **ANS:** Once you have completed all your major requirements, email the biology adviser: your CUNY Empl ID, the course number, the number of credits granted by Lehman for the transfer course, and the total number of missing credits. The adviser will submit a request to determine if those credits can be waived.

Permission for a closed course - The lecture for a course is open but the lab is not. How do I go about registering for the course? **ANS:** A course is closed when either the lab or the lecture is closed. Both sections must be open before you can register for the course. You must wait for seats to become available in the lab before attempting to register for the course. The adviser will not process over-tallies
for any biology course that is closed. If a course is closed, you can either wait until seats become available or apply for an e-permit to take an equivalent course at another CUNY college.

**Permission for an open course** - The biology course (other than Bio 181, Bio 182, Bio 230) is open, and I meet the prerequisites for taking the course. However, the system is blocking me from registering. **ANS:** Send an email to the biology adviser. In the Subject line type “Permission for Open Course,” then email your name, CUNY Empl ID, and the course number and title.

**Plant Sciences Program** – Where do I get information about the individualized plant sciences program offered jointly by the Lehman College and the New York Botanical Garden? **ANS:** We no longer offer that program. Students interested in Plant Sciences should choose biology BS major with the Bioenvironmental Track. The track information is available at the Lehman Department of Biology Website.

**Pre-med or Pre-health programs** - What pre-med program and resources are offered at Lehman College? **ANS:** We have a BS degree in biology with the Biomedical track that prepares students for health professional schools. Once you are admitted to Lehman College, you will be assigned to see an academic adviser, the biology major adviser, and the Pre-health adviser. In addition, we have several resources and scholarship opportunities for premed students that are posted on the Lehman Biology Departmental website. For all questions regarding medical or health professional schools and programs (PA, dental, veterinarian, etc.), contact the pre-health adviser.

**Repeating Courses** – Can the biology adviser give me permission to repeat a course. **ANS:** No. The adviser is not authorized to give you permission for repeating a course. If you got a D, you must ask the Registrar to enroll you in the course. If you got a C-, you must ask permission at Shuster 280.

**Residency Requirements** – As a transfer student, how many biology elective credits do I have to complete at Lehman? **ANS:** Transfer students must complete the requirements of the biology major and the Lehman Residency. They must complete half of the major/minor requirements at Lehman College (at least 36 credits for the biology BS degree, 28 credits for the biology BA degree, and 8 credits for the biology minor). Transfer students must take additional elective credits (200-300-400 level (not Bio 230)) to meet the residency requirement for the biology major. As this is a Lehman College policy, the Department of Biological Sciences cannot provide any exceptions to this rule.

**Transfer to Lehman Courses** – How do I transfer to Lehman College? **ANS:** To facilitate your transfer to Biology Department at Lehman College, you can take a year of general biology, a year of general chemistry and precalculus. However, I do not suggest that you transfer too many science courses because of the college's residency requirements, which states that student must take at least 36 credits in their major to graduate from Lehman College.

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