

POSSIBLE MINORS FOR BIOLOGY MAJORS

First minor

Many biology majors would like to have a minor along with the biology major. Most of you already have a minor and don't know it. There is a Physical Science minor that most biology majors automatically earn.

Those of you who are pre-professional will all take Chem 1A, 1AL, 1B, and 1BL, Chem 128A and 128B, Chem 150 or 155, and finally Phys 2A and 2B. Done. You have a Physical Science minor.

All academic minors must have a minimum of 6 upper division units taken at Fresno State (Chem 128A and 128B will meet this requirement). And you must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in the minor. (The six units of upper division courses and 2.0 GPA apply to all minors at Fresno State.)

Second minor

There is a second minor that some students have found really worthwhile. It is Gerontology, the study of human old age, a highly relevant area for any one working in health care in our ageing society. And it gives you another way to have your application to professional school stand out a bit more. It is a 15 unit minor made of five three-unit courses.

There are two groups of students for whom this minor makes sense.

Beginning freshman can take three courses in this minor and have them double count for General Education. So you are really taking only two extra three-unit courses. See Dr. Schreiber for the advising sheet.

The second group is transfer students who have completed all or nearly all of their lower division General Education. You have made life difficult for yourselves by not having any easier courses to go along with your science lab courses. Fifteen units of just science courses can be very challenging. So add a Gerontology course or two each semester and lighten your load. This works as long as you have time. If you want to spend two years and be out of here, this probably won't work.

Two of the Gerontology courses will double count for upper-division General Education. So you really have just three extra courses. Study the Gerontology advising sheet to make sure that you choose the correct courses.

Third minor

Some students want to complete a Chemistry minor. If you want to do this, all that you have to do is take Chem 105 in addition to all of the chemistry that pre-professional students normally take. (See the list above in the Physical Science section). Chem 105 is essentially a repeat of Chem 1B and 1BL on steroids. It doesn't add anything particularly relevant to your career goals. But some students prefer the Chemistry to the Physical Science. You cannot double-count courses for both a Chemistry and a Physical Science minor. Choose one or the other.