

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biology

2026-2027 Official Degree Plan

Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (LACC) Requirements

HCU's Liberal Arts Core Curriculum guides students to more fully know and make known:

- **God**, the Creator and Redeemer, as he has revealed Himself in his Son, by the Holy Spirit, through the Scriptures and His World. *Core outcomes:* Biblical literacy ¹, Christian wisdom ², and theological proficiency ³.
- **God's Creation** by examining and engaging with the design, intricacy, and coherence of his world. *Core outcomes:* Scientific ⁴, quantitative ⁵, and aesthetic literacy ⁶.
- **Humans as God's Image Bearers** by investigating and celebrating human dignity, interdependence, and flourishing through their status as created, purposeful beings. *Core outcomes:* Investigation and celebration of human dignity ⁷, interdependence ⁸, and flourishing ⁹ through the cultivation of charity, humility, and verbal literacy.

For more information about the mission and philosophy of our Liberal Arts Core Curriculum, please visit the [Core Curriculum website](#).

COURSES	OUTCOMES	HOURS
CHRI 1301 Introduction to the Bible*	1 2 3 7 8 9	3
CHRI 2373 Christian Theology and Tradition*	1 2 3 7 9	3
PHIL 1313 Introduction to Philosophy	2 3 6 7 8 9	3
CHEM 2315/2115 General Chemistry I with Lab	2 4 5 6	4
MATH 1313 College Algebra*	2 4 5 6	3
ART 2343 Art Appreciation or MUSI 1331 Music Appreciation (choose one)	2 6 8 9	3
ENGL 1313 Composition and Literature I*	1 2 3 6 7 8 9	3
ENGL 1323 Composition and Literature II*	1 2 6 7 8 9	3
ENGL 2315 Great Works of Literature I or ENGL 2325 Great Works of Literature II (choose one)	1 2 3 6 7 8 9	3
GOVT 2313 American and Texas Government	2 7 8 9	3
COMM 1323 Rhetoric and Public Speaking	2 6 7 8 9	3
HIST 2311 Western Civilization I	1 2 6 7 8 9	3
HIST 2312 Western Civilization II or HIST 2313 US History to 1877 or HIST 2323 US History from 1877 (choose one)	2 3 6 7 8 9	3
PSYC 1313 General Psychology	1 2 3 4 7 8 9	3
Total LACC Hours		43

* Course must be completed with "C" or higher

* Students transferring to HCU with 45 or more hours of transferrable college credit will take only CHRI 3300 Introduction to Bible and Theology ^{1 2 3 7 9} to meet their LACC Christianity requirements. This lowers the LACC requirement to 40 credit hours, but the student must still complete the total required hours for the degree.

Program Requirements

(all courses required for major must be completed with "C" or higher)

COURSES	HOURS
CHEM 2315 General Chemistry I	LACC
CHEM 2115 General Chemistry I Lab	LACC
CHEM 2316 General Chemistry II	3
CHEM 2116 General Chemistry II Lab	1
Total Program Requirement Hours	4

Major Requirements

(all courses required for major must be completed with "C" or higher)

COURSES	HOURS	
BIOL 3301 Cellular and Molecular Biology	3	
BIOL 3101 Cellular and Molecular Biology Lab	1	
BIOL 3414 Microbiology	4	
BIOL 3444 Genetics	4	
BIOL 4272 Integrating Biological Concepts	2	
BIOL 2354 General Biology I	3	
BIOL 2154 General Biology I Lab	1	
BIOL 2355 General Biology II	3	
BIOL 2155 General Biology II Lab	1	
Research (choose one from the following):	2	
BIOL 4297 Research in Biology		
BCMB 4297 Research in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology		
Biology Electives (Choose five courses from the categories as indicated. Three of the five must contain labs.)		18-20
<u>Systems Category (choose one):</u>		
BIOL 3433 Pathophysiology		
BIOL 3454 General Physiology		
BIOL 3456 Advanced Human Anatomy		
BIOL 3464 Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy		
<u>Advanced Microbiology Category (choose one):</u>		
BIOL 4324 Advanced Cell Biology		
BIOL 4335 RNA Biology		
BIOL 4344 Virology		
BIOL 4363 Medical Microbiology		
BIOL 4375 Cancer Biology		
BIOL 4424 Molecular Biology		
BIOL 4448 Molecular Genetics		
BIOL 4464 Immunology		

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Biology Specialties Category (choose two):

BIOL 3325 Global Health
BIOL 3335 Nutrition and Metabolism
BIOL 3375 Human Genetics
BIOL 3434 Ecology and Field Biology
BIOL 4325 Endocrinology
BIOL 4423 Histology
BIOL 4425 Drug Action
BIOL 4433 Embryology
BIOL 4443 Neuroscience

Choose one additional elective from any of the above categories for a total of five Biology electives.

Total Major Hours	46-48
Required Elective Hours	34-36
Total Hours in Degree	125

Additional Graduation Requirements

- At least 125 total credit hours, including 30 credit hours of upper-level (3000 or 4000) courses.
- Community Life and Worship (CLW) credits: 80 credits required for graduation (at least 50 credits must be CLW-A earned through worship events, up to 30 credits may be CLW-B earned through community life events). CLW events offered each semester are listed on the [Spiritual Life CLW website](#).
- FYS 1300 Freshman Year Seminar is required for all students enrolling at HCU with fewer than thirty (30) credit hours. College credit earned prior to high school graduation (e.g., dual credit) does not count toward the 30-hour requirement. Students enrolled in 100% online degree programs will take ONLN 1300 Introduction to Online Learning in place of FYS 1300.
- At least 30 credit hours or 25 percent of the total credit hours required for an undergraduate degree (whichever is greater) must be earned at HCU, including at least 12 credit hours of upper-level courses in the major with a grade of "C" or better in each course.
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 with no grade below "C" in courses required for the major or as noted on the degree plan.
- Once admitted and enrolled at HCU, no more than 18 credit hours may be transferred from another institution. Students should consult with their academic advisor prior to enrolling in courses at another institution.

Filing a Degree Plan

All undergraduate students must have an official signed and approved degree plan on file with the Office of Academic Records by the time they complete 64 credit hours. Students should contact their academic advisor to begin the process. If seeking a double degree, double major, minor, or certificate, an official degree plan must be filed for each program of study. For questions, email degreeplans@HC.edu.

Applying for Graduation

Undergraduate students should apply for graduation through the HCU student self-service portal at least one semester before their anticipated graduation date. An official degree plan must be on file before the application can be accessed. More information about applying for graduation, including deadlines, can be found on the [Graduation Application website](#). For questions, email grad@HC.edu.

Degree Works

Access Degree Works through the [HCU Student Portal \(my.HC.edu\)](#) to view your degree plan status, graduation application status, and track your progress to graduation. For questions, contact your academic advisor.

University Catalog

The University Catalog is the official record of academic policies. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the information in the catalog, including attendance policies, transfer credit policies, academic standing information, and course descriptions. The catalog can be found on the [HCU Catalog website](#).

Acknowledgment and Signatures

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to abide by all requirements on the degree plan. This degree plan is not valid until received and processed by the Office of Academic Records.

Student Name (Printed)

Student H#

HCU Email

Student Signature

Date

Advisor Signature

Date

Office of Academic Records Use Only

Processed By: _____ Date: _____