Biological Sciences (Biology and Society), E

How does science shape the way we understand our world? Explore the social context of science while developing the skills needed to navigate the ethical complexities of scientific discovery. Discover how policy decisions are shaped by biological research and investigate the significance of the sciences in understanding our complex world.

Program Description

The BS program in biological sciences with a concentration in biology and society focuses on training biology students to understand the social context of their science and to ask how and why a biological problem has been and should be studied. Students explore the ways in which policy decisions shape and are shaped by biological research and they investigate the meaning and significance of the life sciences in understanding our complex world.

The biology and society curriculum is highly individualized. This unique degree is home to world-class researchers and teachers in diverse fields, including bioscience ethics, history and philosophy of science, science communication, science education and science policy, all brought together under one program. Students have the opportunity to work with many renowned scholars in independent study and research projects.

This program is available as an accelerated degree program:
https://sols.asu.edu/degree-programs/accelerated-bachelor-master-science.

Due to the high volume of overlap in curriculum, students enrolled in this degree are not permitted to declare a concurrent degree combination with any other program within the School of Life Sciences. Students should speak with their academic advisor for any further questions.

At a Glance
• **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
• **Location:** Tempe campus or online, ASU Local@Los Angeles

• **Additional Program Fee:** Yes  
• **Second Language Requirement:** No  
• **First Required Math Course:** MAT 251 - Calculus for Life Sciences  
• **Math Intensity:** Moderate

### Required Courses (Major Map)

**2021 - 2022 Major Map (On-campus)**  
**2021 - 2022 Major Map (Online)**  
**Major Map (Archives)**

### Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- **Biology (Biology and Society), MS**  
- **Biology, MS**  
- **Global Management (Creative Industries and Design Thinking), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Digital Audience Strategy), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Global Affairs), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Global Business), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Global Development and Innovation), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Global Digital Transformation), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Global Entrepreneurship), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Global Health Care Delivery), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Global Legal Studies), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Integrated Health Care), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Nonprofit Leadership and Management), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Public Administration), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Public Policy), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Sustainability Solutions), MGM**  
- **Global Management (Sustainable Tourism), MGM**  
- **Global Management, MGM**  
- **Microbiology, MS**  
- **Molecular and Cellular Biology, MS**
Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Admission Requirements**

**General University Admission Requirements:**
All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

[Freshman] [Transfer] [International] [Readmission]

**Change of Major Requirements**

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Students should refer to [https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu](https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu) for information about how to change a major to this program.

**Attend Online**

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

**Transfer Options**

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use MyPath2ASU™ to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: [https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs](https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs).

**Global Opportunities**

**Global Experience**
When studying abroad, students are able to engage in community service and outreach all around the world, which can help their graduate and professional program applications stand out. Students experience unique biological environments and gain an understanding of worldwide differences in the human condition. Study abroad programs exist across the globe, programs such as a summer in Panama and a year in Ireland. [https://goglobal.asu.edu/](https://goglobal.asu.edu/)
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends the following study abroad programs for students majoring in biological sciences with a concentration in biology and society:

**Career Opportunities**

Biology and society students gain the historical, philosophical, political and ethical perspectives needed to explore interactions between the life sciences and related, complex human issues. As a result, the program contributes to better informed and more effective teachers, writers, policymakers, clinicians and researchers in areas related to biology, medicine and society.

As a result of the individualized, skill-based curriculum, biology and society graduates are eligible for a broad range of career options. Most have chosen to pursue professional degrees in medicine, law, public health or public policy, or to pursue graduate study in biology, ethics, education or history and philosophy of science. Graduates enter the workforce, whether in academia, industry, government or clinical practice, with a deep sensitivity to the complexity of biology in society and the skill to navigate that complexity throughout their careers.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bioinformatics Scientist</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>$85,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences Professor</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>$85,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Worker</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Specialist</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>$73,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Teacher</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>$62,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>$126,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Scientist</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>$82,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Scientist</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>$91,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Services Manager</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>$104,280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

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**Contact Information**