

PLME Biology Competency COVID Update for 2020-2021 Academic Year

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, Brown University has implemented three-term academic year for 2020-2021. The PLME Biology requirement, as stated in your PLME handbook, requires all Biology competency courses to be completed at Brown during either the fall or spring semester. As some students will or may potentially be limited in their ability to participate in classes during both the fall and spring semesters and all terms carry equal academic weight, the Biology requirement is being updated to reflect the current situation.

Note: Freshmen incoming as part of the PLME Class of 2024 are required to complete their Biology competency courses as part of a full course load and thus, courses taken during Fall 2020 will not be counted towards completion of the Biology competency requirements.

PLME upperclassmen, especially sophomores and juniors, are advised to review the updated Biology competency requirements below. This policy takes precedence over the PLME Handbook issued to you during Orientation for the 2020-2021 academic year ONLY.

To fulfill the biology competency, students must take four biology courses or equivalents as listed in the table below. The biology courses required to fulfill the biology competency must be taken at Brown **during either the fall, spring, or summer trimesters** (not during normal summer or winter sessions). Note the addition of the summer trimester as a feasible option for fulfilling a biology competency course.

Three (3) biology courses listed below must be fulfilled with a grade B or better, except as noted for BIOL 0280, Introduction to Biochemistry.

BIOL 0280 is required of all PLME students and may be taken S/NC if three (3) PLME biology competencies have been taken and the student achieves a grade of B or better.

Table 1: PLME Biology Competencies

Brown Course	Course Title/Note
1 (one) of the following:	
BIOL0200	<i>The Foundation of Living Systems</i>
AP Biology Exam score of 4 or 5	
Minimum IB HL score of 5	
Passing score: Brown Department of Biology Placement Test	<i>Documentation required</i>
2 (two) courses from this list:	
BIOL0470	<i>Genetics</i>
BIOL0500	<i>Cell and Molecular Biology</i>
BIOL0510	<i>Introductory Microbiology</i>
BIOL0530	<i>Principles of Immunology</i>
BIOL0800	<i>Principles of Physiology</i>
BIOL1310	<i>Developmental Biology</i>
BIOL1880	<i>Comparative Biology of the Vertebrates</i>
NEUR0010	<i>The Brain: An Introduction to Neuroscience</i>
The following course is required:	
BIOL0280	<i>Introduction to Biochemistry: Note: BIOL-0280 may be taken S/NC if at least 3 other PLME biology competencies from this table have been fulfilled and the student achieves a grade of B or better.</i>