

# GENETICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GENETICS

## Codirectors of the Program:

**Professor**, Charles Shuster, Department Head, Biology  
**Professor**, Niall Hanan, Interim Department Head, Plant and Environmental Sciences

**Professors** Bailey, Cramer, Hanley, Houde, Milligan, Randall, Serrano, C. Shuster, M. Shuster, Smith, Unguez, Zhang; **Associate Professors** Curtiss, James, Xu **Assistant Professors** Lozada

Have you ever wondered why your hair or eye color, facial features, or the build of your body resembles that of your parents, grandparents, or other close relatives? What factors are responsible for generating all the variety of colors and shapes of flowers, trees, and different types of animals? If these questions have crossed your mind, then you have been thinking about Genetics; the science of heredity. Genetics is studied at the DNA/ gene/genome level (molecular genetics, biotechnology, genomics and bioinformatics), the level of organisms (classical or Mendelian genetics), and within/among populations of individuals (population and quantitative genetics).

One of the most significant scientific accomplishments in history has been the use of genomic technologies to recently identify most human genes, as well as, most genes for a number of other animals, plants, fungi, and bacteria. Geneticists now have tremendous opportunities to use molecular, biochemical, mathematical, and computer science-based (bioinformatics) approaches to investigate how these genes determine observable traits. This information can be used to significantly advance human health and well being, and to meet the food and fiber needs of the world.

A degree in Genetics can provide excellent preparation for careers in academic research and technical support, teaching, agriculture, the biotechnology industry, medicine and health sciences, forensic science, technical writing, and sales or marketing. It is also an excellent background for students wishing to enter a graduate program, medical school, and veterinary school.

Undergraduates in the Genetics program must earn a grade of C- or better to receive credit for Departmental and Non-Departmental required courses. Within the Departmental Required courses, Tier I courses must be taken by all majors, for a total of 31 credit hours\*. To accommodate differing interests among students, a series of Tier II courses comprising 9-11 credits are provided. Ethical considerations of genetic based technologies will be infused throughout the curriculum, with a focused course on Science and Ethics in the Tier III portion of the core curriculum.

\*Note: This includes BIOL 2610G which also counts as a General Education elective.

## Requirements

Students must complete all University degree requirements, which include: General Education requirements, Viewing a Wider World requirements, other Non-Departmental requirements, and elective credits to total at least 120 credits with 48 credits in courses numbered 300 or above. Developmental coursework will not count towards the degree

requirements and/or elective credits, but may be needed in order to take the necessary English and Mathematics coursework.

Prefix	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
<i>Area I: Communications</i>		10
	English Composition - Level 1 <sup>1</sup>	
	English Composition - Level 2 <sup>1</sup>	
	Oral Communication <sup>1</sup>	
<i>Area II: Mathematics</i>		
MATH 1521G	Calculus and Analytic Geometry II <sup>2</sup>	4
<i>Area III/IV: Laboratory Sciences and Social/Behavioral Sciences</i>		11
CHEM 1215G	General Chemistry I Lecture and Laboratory for STEM Majors	
CHEM 1225G	General Chemistry II Lecture and Laboratory for STEM Majors	
<i>Area IV: Social/Behavioral Sciences (3 credits)<sup>1</sup></i>		3
<i>Area V: Humanities<sup>1</sup></i>		3
<i>Area VI: Creative and Fine Arts<sup>1</sup></i>		3
<i>General Education Elective</i>		
BIOL 2610G	Principles of Biology: Biodiversity, Ecology, and Evolution (Tier I Requirement also)	3
<b>Viewing a Wider World<sup>3</sup></b>		6
<b>Departmental/College Requirements</b>		
<i>Tier I Requirements</i>		
BIOL 2110G & BIOL 2110L	Principles of Biology: Cellular and Molecular Biology and Principles of Biology: Cellular and Molecular Biology Laboratory	4
BIOL 377	Cell Biology	3
BIOL 446 or GENE 452	Bioinformatics and NCBI Database Applied Bioinformatics	3
BIOL 455 or A ST 311	Biometry Statistical Applications	3
BIOL 467	Evolution	3
GENE 1110	Experimental Systems in Genetics	1
GENE 305 L	Genetic Techniques	1
GENE 315	Molecular Genetics	3
GENE 320	Hereditary and Population Genetics	3
GENE 440	Genetics Seminar	1
Choose 3 Credits from Following:		3
GENE 391	Genetics Internship	
GENE 449	Special Problems	
BIOL 302	Molecular Biology Techniques Laboratory	
BIOL 309	Guided Biological Research Lab	
BIOL 351	Biology Internship	
<i>Tier II Requirements</i>		9-11
Select one course from each of the three following categories.		
1. Molecular and Applied Genetics: AGRO 462, ANSC 423, BIOL 442, BIOL 475, BIOL 478, BIOL 488, GENE 486		
2. Physiology: ANSC 421, BIOL 354, BIOL 381, BIOL 385, BIOL 451, BIOL 474, EPWS 314, HORT 471		
3. Organism Structure: ANSC 370, BIOL 311, BIOL 313, BIOL 322, BIOL 382, BIOL 470, BIOL 490, EPWS 302, EPWS 373		
<i>Tier III Courses</i>		3
Select one from the following:		
AGRO 303V	Genetics and Society	
HNRS 306V	Science, Ethics and Society	
<b>Non-Departmental Requirements (in addition to Gen.Ed/VWW)</b>		

CHEM 313	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 314	Organic Chemistry II	3
CHEM 315	Organic Chemistry Laboratory	2
BCHE 395	Biochemistry I	3
BCHE 396	Biochemistry II, Lecture and Laboratory	4
PHYS 2230G	General Physics for Life Science I	3
or PHYS 1230G	Algebra-Based Physics I	
PHYS 2240G	General Physics for Life Science II	3
or PHYS 1240G	Algebra-Based Physics II	
<b>Electives, to bring the total credits to 120<sup>4</sup></b>		<b>16</b>
Select electives to bring total to 120 credits including 48 upper division credits.		
<i>Recommended Electives</i>		
HNRS courses <sup>5</sup>		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120-122</b>

<sup>1</sup> See the General Education Section (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/general-education-viewing-wider-world/>) of the catalog for a full list of courses.

<sup>2</sup> MATH 1521G Calculus and Analytic Geometry II is required for the degree but students may need to take prerequisite courses before entering MATH 1521G Calculus and Analytic Geometry II.

<sup>3</sup> See the Viewing a Wider World (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/general-education-viewing-wider-world/#viewingawiderworldtext>) section of the catalog for a full list of courses.

<sup>4</sup> Elective credit may vary based on prerequisites, dual credit, AP credit, double majors, and/or minor coursework. The elective credits in the requirements list is the amount needed to bring the total to 120 credits and may vary based on the degree. Students may need to complete more or less courses on a case-by-case basis and each student should discuss elective requirements with their advisor.

<sup>5</sup> Students interested in graduating with University Honors should consult with an advisor to select 18 credits of relevant Honors (HNRS) courses.

## Second Language Requirement

For the Bachelor of Science in Genetics with a major in Genetics and Biotechnology there is no second language requirement for the degree.