

Biology Registration Newsletter

For planning Fall '26 Course Registration

Fall 2026 Course Registration Window
April 7-17, 2026

To help you prepare for Fall 2026 registration, please use the links below to assist in your planning. Though key policy updates are highlighted, a detailed description of policies, graduation requirements, etc. can be found in the [Biology Student Handbook](#). A general guide to registration can be accessed from [Records and Registration](#).

Getting help. Please include your PAWS ID number in any correspondence that concerns registration, enrollment, graduation requirements, or problems with your transcript with your advisor or the department chair, Dr. Clement (clementw@tcnj.edu).

Click on a topic below to go directly to a section of the newsletter.

[The Registration Process, 101](#)

[Biology Registration Policies](#)

[Correlate Course Updates - changes to Physics!](#)

[Policies for Off-Campus Courses \(Other colleges & Study Abroad\)](#)

[Fall '26 Courses & Descriptions](#)

[Research, Internship, and Course Assistant Opportunities](#)

[Summer '26 Courses](#)

Quick Access for Independent Research Resources

Registering for Independent research?

- Want to get involved in research? Read about Independent Research in the [Research Opportunities section](#) and fill in the **Biology Department [Independent Research Interest Form](#)** to be considered for an independent research position.
- Already involved in research? Consult with your research mentor first and then fill out the [Independent Research Form](#) to have the appropriate course added to your PAWS account.

The Registration Process, 101

When can I register?

- Registration is from April 7-17, 2026. Each student is assigned a registration time based on earned course units. You can find your registration date and time in PAWS. Need help? Check out this [how-to](#) video!
- You can continue to register for Fall 2026 classes until the first week of the Fall 2026 term (end of add/drop period), but many courses will be closed long before then.

Academic Advising Appointments

- An Advising **Registration hold** has been placed on your account. Look for an email from your advisor to set up a meeting prior to your registration slot to discuss your progress in the major and plans for the next semester. Once you have that meeting, your advisor will remove the hold and you will be able to register for classes.
- Be sure to check PAWS for any additional holds you may need to address before you can register.

Waitlists

- All waitlists are now managed directly in PAWS. Follow the [instructions](#) provided by Records and Registration to put your name on a waitlist. Please note that putting your name on a waitlist **does not** guarantee you a seat in the course.

Biology Registration Policies

- **Holding seats.** Registering in a course section to hold a seat for another student is a violation of TCNJ's Academic Integrity Policy for both the student holding the seat and the student taking the held seat. Course registration is monitored by the chair for anomalies suggestive of seat holding.
- **Registering for classes you do not intend to take.** Please **do not** fill your schedule with placeholders by registering for classes you do not intend to take if you are on a waitlist. This is another form of holding a seat that another student may need for their degree plan.

Correlate Course Updates for Spring '26 Registration

- **Physics requirement for the BS in Biology.** Biology students now have the option of taking either PHY 121 or PHY 201 to fulfill the physics requirement for any BS degree in Biology. The general difference is that PHY 121 is *algebra-based physics*, while PHY 201 is *calculus-based physics*. Please consult with your advisor to determine the right path for you.

- **Physics 202.** First, PHY 202 is **not required** of any Biology major. With that in mind, many students are interested in taking a second semester of general physics to fulfill prerequisites for medical school, graduate school, and more. For those who are interested in taking PHY 202 rather than PHY 122, please note MAT 128/CalcB is a prerequisite for this course. What does this mean for you? Read on!
 - **If you have taken MAT 128,** you can register for PHY 202 yourself when your registration slot opens.
 - **If you have not taken MAT128 and you plan to or already have taken STA215:**
 - You can opt to take PHY 122, which is an algebra-based physics.
 - You can take PHY 202 if you have a B or higher in PHY 201 and Mat127/CalcA. If this applies to you, please fill in the [Physics Dept permission form](#) by the date specified on the website, and the Physics Office will work with you to enroll you in PHY 202 provided you are eligible.

Policies for Off-Campus Courses

- **Off-campus study**
 - ***NJ Community or County Colleges:*** Off-campus study (e.g., a summer course) at a NJ county college is regulated by [NJ Transfer \(njtransfer.org\)](http://njtransfer.org). You can use this website to see the course equivalencies of any community or county college in New Jersey and understand what courses or requirements that course would fulfill at TCNJ. You must fill in the course approval [form](#) and have it approved by Records and Registration before taking a course at a community or county college.
 - ***Off-campus study elsewhere.*** Off-campus study at a non-NJ community college or a domestic four-year college must be approved by the chair of the department to determine which course(s) would be transferable to TCNJ. Be sure to confer with Dr. Clement before enrolling in these courses to determine the course equivalency and send her the course approval [form](#) for approving off-campus study.
 - Consult with Dr. Clement regarding online (distance learning) laboratory courses. As a general rule, courses with online labs are **not** approved.

- **Study abroad**
 - Can Biology majors study abroad? Of course! Any Biology major interested in studying abroad should contact the [Center for Global Engagement](#) and speak to their advisor well before they wish to travel abroad.
 - Any course to be taken abroad for biology option credit must receive approval of Dr. Clement before you enroll in the course.

Fall '26 Courses Offered

Below is a list of core and option courses offered this Fall '26. Note that courses marked with OE fulfill the organisms & evolution requirement of all biology majors.

Core Courses

BIO 201 — Foundations of Biological Inquiry	BIO 221 — Ecology and Field Biology
BIO 211 — Cell Biology and Biochemistry	BIO 231 — Genetics

Options Courses

BIO 301 — Human Anatomy & Physiology I*	BIO 420 — Plant-Insect Interactions (OE)
BIO 312 — Microbiology	BIO 441 — Plant Genetics
BIO 330 — Mathematical Biology	BIO 451 — Developmental Biology
BIO 343 — General Entomology (OE)	BIO 480 — Neurobiology
BIO 370 — Immunology	BIO 498 — Biology Seminar
BIO 372 — BioConnections ^ Biodiversity Crisis	
BIO 390 — Biology Internship	

* *NOW available as a Bio option for Biology students.*

^ *This is a 0.5 unit course. This course can count as a Biology options course **if** combined with a second BioConnections course of a different topic.*

Course Descriptions

Below are brief references for courses that are either new or have special attributes. Be sure to refer to PAWS for descriptions and prerequisites of all courses offered.

BIO 370: Immunology. The immune system is a core bodily function with broad impact, ranging from fighting infection, preventing cancer, regulating allergy, and controlling wound healing. As such, deep appreciation of immunology is crucial toward understanding diverse biomedical subfields. This class will cover the fundamentals of human (and some murine) immunology, including: barrier systems, humoral and cellular immunity, antibody diversity, autoimmunity and hypersensitivity, immune memory, and tolerance. This course is interdisciplinary, relying on concepts from biochemistry, molecular biology, cellular biology, and public health. We will cover topics such as the genetic pathways allowing for antibody diversity, pros and cons of different vaccine paradigms, immune cell development, and transplant immunology, to name a few. The course will consist of a lecture including interactive components, and a once-weekly recitation that will cover immunological lab techniques and primary literature.

BIO 372: Biology Connections-The Biodiversity Crisis. As a consequence of human activity, global biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate. This Biology Connections course will explore the causes of biodiversity loss, examining how different components of biodiversity are impacted by human activity in different ways. We will also consider the consequences of declining biodiversity, which cascade through ecological communities and degrade the ecosystem services that support human health and socioeconomic well-being. These topics will be explored through a series of readings, discussions, and short assignments. Readings from the primary literature, as well as from a book

written for educated non-scientists, will form the foundation for discussions and assessments. An important goal for the course will be to evaluate how scientific information is communicated to a broader audience. The way that scientific information is communicated to the general public influences the development and implementation of effective public policy.

This is a 0.5 unit course that meets once a week. This can be combined with a second Biology Connections course to fulfill a Biology options course requirement.

BIO 498: Senior Seminar-Developmental Genetics. In this seminar we will explore embryogenesis in many different species, with an emphasis on the genetic regulation of embryonic patterning. In light of the fact that so many mechanisms of gene expression were first discovered by studying the molecular genetics of embryology, and that errors in these pathways lead to congenital defects, there are many fascinating stories to explore.

Research, Internship, and Course Assistant Opportunities

In the Biology department, there are additional opportunities for students to earn course credit including (1) **Independent Research**, (2) **Internships**, and (3) **Course Assistants**. Each of these types of courses require enrollment through a form or application – you will not be able to add them to your shopping cart. See below for details and reach out to Dr Clement with questions.

1a. Independent Research

- To register for independent research, you must have approval from a faculty member and discuss which course and number of units (often either 0.5 or 1 unit) prior to registering. The three courses include (full descriptions and syllabi are in the [Biology Student Handbook](#)):
 - BIO 393 — Independent Research in Biology I
 - BIO 493 — Independent Research in Biology II
 - BIO 494 — Honors Independent Research in Biology II
- Once you have conferred with an independent research faculty member, you need to fill out the [Independent Study Qualtrics](#) form to be placed in the appropriate course.
- Most Biology degree plans allow **one unit** of Independent Research to substitute for a Biology options course.
- If you are only taking a total of three courses next semester, it is important that you fill out this form and send it in as close to your registration window as possible. **Do not** register for a course you do not intend to take just to have full time status as you wait to be enrolled in research.
- Interested in getting involved in research? Talk with your advisor during your academic advising session and fill in this [Research Interest Form](#) by the March 13 deadline.

1b. Independent Research in Biology Capstone

- If you have completed at least one course unit of BIO 493 or BIO 494, you may complete your capstone by taking BIO 495 or BIO 496 with the same instructor.
 - BIO 495 — Independent Research in Biology Capstone
 - BIO 496 — Honors Independent Research in Biology Capstone

- To register for BIO 495 or 496, first confer with your research faculty mentor. Then, fill out the [Independent Study Qualtrics](#) form to be placed in the appropriate course. This form will be sent to your advisor to be approved before you are registered.
- BIO 495/496 Independent Research in Biology Capstone fulfills the capstone in the major, and so students enrolled in BIO 495/6 do not need to register for BIO 498 — Biology Seminar.

2. Internships

Biology Internship - BIO 390

- There are a number of biology-related internships in which students gain valuable experience and insights to applying biology in the workplace. If you have or are planning to participate in such a biology-related internship (paid or unpaid), you might consider registering for BIO 390 - Biology Internship and receive credit for a biology options class for your internship. Internships can occur during the summer or academic year.
- If you are interested, please reach out to the Biology Internship Coordinator, Dr. Pecor (pecor@tcnj.edu) about the possibility.

Biology Research Internship — BIO 399 (Offered Fall semester only)

- A number of local pharmaceutical and biotech companies, as well as universities and ecological field stations throughout the country, offer undergraduate summer research opportunities that qualify for academic internship credit. If you participate in such a program, you might consider registering for BIO 399 — Biology Research Internship and receive course credit for a biology options class for your internship.
- If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to the Biology Research Internship Coordinator, Dr Erickson (erickson@tcnj.edu) to discuss whether your experience could qualify for credit.

3. Course Assistants — BIO 300

- The Course Assistant (CA) Program in Biology provides students with the opportunity to mentor students in introductory and options courses. Currently, CAs are placed into nearly all core courses and selected upper level courses.
- CAs earn 0.5 units of elective credit, and the course is pass/fail. CAs meet weekly with a faculty mentor, attend a designated class at the same time each week, sometimes hold peer study hours, and write a final reflective essay on their experience.
- If you are interested in being a CA, watch for an email from Dr. Clement during the second week of Registration, which will provide a link to a CA Interest Form. Complete the interest form with your top choices and availability based on your courses for the following semester. If you are placed as a CA, you will automatically be enrolled in BIO 300.

Summer '26 Courses

For the most updated information, please make sure to look to PAWS for information on summer 2026 courses, including times and summer session. Currently we plan to offer (pending sufficient enrollment):

- BIO 201: Foundations of Biological Inquiry
- BIO 231: Genetics
- BIO 411: Animal Physiology