

FA20 Biology Course Scheduling FAQs

Not surprising given the complexity of registration, there have been a lot of questions about Fall classes. We wanted to address answers to common questions we have been receiving as the second pass of registration approaches. Since Biological Sciences has structured its online and in-person courses differently than other departments, these answers only apply to how courses are being implemented in the Division of Biological Sciences.

Q: What if I don't know what my situation is going to be like in the fall? Should I register for courses now or wait?

A: The majority of Biological Sciences classes are fully remote, so your situation should not impact enrollment in those courses. The main exceptions to this guidance are BILD1,2,3, BICD 100, and lab classes. These courses are offered in both remote and hybrid forms. The hybrid versions of these courses have in-person components. If you are not able to participate in a class that has in-person components due to health status, visa status, etc, you should enroll in the remote versions of these courses.

Q: What if I register for in-person and hybrid classes but find out later that I am not able to come to campus? Should I register for other courses?

A: Register for courses you are most likely to attend under your current situation. Only register for in-person classes if you plan to attend in person. Our approved accommodation for asynchronous options for BILD1,2,3, BICD 100, and lab classes is to offer separate “remote” and “in-person/hybrid” versions of these courses (as listed in the Schedule of Classes). If your status changes prior to the start of Fall, our advice is to drop from the in-person course, and enroll in the fully remote version of the course. If your ability to participate in an in-person version of these courses changes due to quarantine, health status, etc, instructors will make accommodations on a case-by-case basis, similar to what is done when students become ill.

Q: What if there are not enough remote classes for me to enroll in?

A: Students should only enroll in the version of courses that they can actually attend. We will make efforts to balance availability where possible, but the exact version (remote vs in-person/hybrid) of BILD1,2,3, BICD 100, and lab classes that each student needs or prefers may not be available. Students are encouraged to waitlist courses if necessary, however the Division cannot guarantee waitlisted students will be able to enroll in the remote version of the class. Waitlists will be monitored to determine what changes can be made to course offerings and seat capacity. Please DO NOT enroll in in-person/hybrid versions of BILD1,2,3, BICD 100, or the lab classes if you know you cannot attend in-person. These classes will not offer fully asynchronous instruction because we will not be able to develop alternatives to in person experiences such as lab exercises.

Q: Will I be permitted to enroll in courses that have time conflicts?

A: While we cannot stop you from doing this, we will not be able to accommodate course schedule conflicts except for fully remote and asynchronous courses. We have already noticed students interpreting asynchronous accommodations as allowing double booking of courses. This

is not the case. There are two reasons for not accommodating this situation. First, IA resources are stretched thin accommodating students who cannot participate in section in real time. Thus, greatly expanding the pool of students who need additional unscheduled IA access is not possible. Second, the overlapping final exam windows of classes scheduled at the same time can cause problems with certain types of finals even if they are delivered in an asynchronous manner.

Q: Should I plan my courses assuming that everything will be better in WI21/SP21?

A: We in Biological Sciences subscribe to the philosophy that “Around every silver lining, there is a cloud.” We advise you to take necessary courses when you need to take them and not postpone enrollment hoping that the situation will improve.

Q: I am concerned about synchronous elements in my remote classes, what do I do?

A: As mentioned previously, aside from a handful of our courses, most of our classes are fully remote. This does not mean that synchronous/live components do not exist in these courses or that those components cannot contribute to your grade. The guidance is that accommodations for synchronous components should be available on a case-by-case basis. For instance, remote lab classes have extensive group data work during the normal class time. This is hard to recapitulate in an asynchronous model, so make-up activities will be available to those who qualify for an accommodation on a case-by-case basis (e.g. residing a different time zone). This policy from Spring quarter will continue in Fall quarter, since this did not present problems for course instruction.

For questions pertaining to other department courses offered Fall 2020, please consult the [campus FAQs](#) and the respective department’s advising office.

If you have questions about biology course offerings for Fall 2020, please direct them to Biology through the VAC (vac.ucsd.edu).