

Advice for Prospective Science, Math, and Environmental Studies Majors

Required courses in the Mathematical Sciences (Mathematics, Computer Science, Statistics), Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology), and Environmental Studies are very sequential. Some courses are offered only in the fall, so if you wait, you could be set back an entire year! The main take-home messages are:

If you are considering a major in Mathematics, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, **take one or two math or science courses in your first semester.** *Don't hesitate or the science train will leave the station without you.*

If you are considering a major in Environmental Studies, **take an ENVS prerequisite or breadth course your first semester, and ENVS 160 in your first or second semester.**

The good news is that *structure gives you freedom*. By planning your schedule carefully, you can go overseas, double-major if you wish, and take full opportunity of all that L&C has to offer.

Here's more detail about planning your schedule:

Before anything else, you must satisfy the quantitative reasoning prerequisite (QR 101). This can be done in any of these ways:

- score 53 or higher on the ALEKS Placement exam,
- score 4 or 5 on the AP AB or BC calculus exam,
- score 5, 6, or 7 on an IB standard or higher level mathematics exam, or
- complete a college course that is equivalent to QR 101 or higher.

If you have **not** met the QR 101 prerequisite even after taking the ALEKS placement exam twice over the summer, don't worry. Keep working diligently on the relevant ALEKS module and retake the exam again this Fall. A somewhat less efficient option, if your ALEKS score is between 30 and 52, is to take QR 101 during your first semester. You will then need to wait until the spring to take courses in your major. To learn more about the QR 101 prerequisite and the ALEKS assessment, visit

<https://college.lclark.edu/academics/support/advising/placement-exams/>.

*If you **have** met the QR and other relevant prerequisites, the following courses are recommended for each of these prospective majors:*

- **Biology:** BIO 110 **and** CHEM 110. Don't panic if BIO 110 fills up; you may also take it in the spring. Another great course is MATH 123, depending on your math placement.
- **Environmental Studies:** ENVS 160 and one of the following courses: BIO 110, CHEM 100 or 110, GEO 150 or 170, ECON 100, IA 100, and SOAN 100 or 110. ENVS 160 may also be taken in the spring.
- **Physics:** PHYS 151 **and** MATH 131 or higher.
- **Math/Computer Science:** MATH 131 or higher, CS 171 or higher.
- **Chemistry:** CHEM 110 or higher.
- **Biochemistry/Molecular Biology:** CHEM 110 **and** MATH 131.
- **Pre-health prerequisites (for non-science major):** CHEM 110 **and** MATH 131 or 123.
- **Undecided Chemistry/Physics:** CHEM 110 **and/or** PHYS 151.

Be aware that many science courses have associated labs that add hours to your weekly schedule.

If you have prior background in a subject like mathematics or computer science, consult with individual departments to determine correct placement. For more specific advice, see:

<https://college.lclark.edu/academics/support/advising/advice-for-prospective-math-science-or-environmental-studies-majors/>