Welcome

On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to the Department of Biology at The College of New Jersey! You and your family should be proud of this accomplishment.

We believe that the programs in the School of Science offer an excellent combination of academic strength, flexibility, and practical experience. We are looking forward to meeting you and to your becoming a part of our TCNJ community as you work to make your future goals a reality. As a new student you will be working with an outstanding faculty which is ready to inspire and challenge you to do your very best work.

Advising Information

You will be assigned an academic advisor, a faculty member in the Department of Biology, who will meet with you regularly throughout your time at TCNJ. You will have opportunities to discuss your course work, how to prepare for your career goals, how to become involved in independent research (should you decide to pursue this), and any questions about academics that arise. It is important to meet with your academic advisor each semester to assure that you are on the track to complete all necessary requirements for graduation and that you will be well-prepared for your years after you graduate from TCNJ.

Until your academic advisor is assigned, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at all. You can reach me at 609-771-3091 or by e-mail at morrisja@tcnj.edu.

Your First Semester

On the back of this letter we have compiled an “Understanding Your First Semester Sequence” document that provides a clear and ordered description of the recommended courses for your first semester and detailed information regarding the liberal learning program, including instructions for selecting your First Seminar class (FSP).

I look forward to meeting you when you arrive on campus in the summer for orientation. I hope that the members of the Department of Biology will be able to make this a great year for you.

Janet Morrison, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Biology
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E) morrisja@tcnj.edu
http://biology.pages.tcnj.edu/
UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER SEQUENCE

Every major has a guideline for its first semester students: the First Semester Sequence. Within this sequence of courses, you will see Major Requirements (for which you will be pre-registered), First Seminar Program (FSP), Liberal Learning courses, and Interdisciplinary Studies requirements. Please reference this First Semester Sequence while completing your online First Semester Worksheet.

### Biology – 7-Year BS/MD Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Requirements <strong>Most incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for Major Requirement courses:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 99 – Biology Seminar (0 unit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 185 – Themes in Biology (1 unit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHE 201 – General Chemistry I* (1 unit)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*CHE 201 requires math SAT score of 650 or higher; otherwise you must take MAT 96 – Precalculus (0 unit)
** Some students may be placed in a 100-level Biology course and delay Chemistry, in order to better prepare them for majors science courses.

### First Seminar Program (FSP)

Select six FSP courses (1 unit):

Any FSP course that interests you is acceptable. We advise you to choose courses outside of the sciences so that your first semester is intellectually balanced.

Select one of the following courses (1 unit):

- **Mathematics**
  - If you are "calculus ready" you should take
    - MAT 127 - Calculus A (1 unit)
  - Otherwise you must take
    - MAT 095 - Intermediate Algebra (0.5 unit) or
    - MAT 096 - Precalculus (0.5 unit) or demonstrate proficiency through a standardized examination. See the Math/Stat web page for details.

- **Or Second Language (if you have credit for Calculus)**
  - All Biology Majors require 2nd language proficiency to the 103 level. Information about language placement criteria is available at [http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/](http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/). No placement exam is needed to take a 101 or 151 level course in a language not previously studied.

- **Or Liberal Learning**
  - If you do not need a math course or a second language course, select six Liberal Learning courses from the following recommended categories on your online First Semester Worksheet:
    - Behavioral, Social, Cultural Perspectives
    - Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts
    - World Views and Ways of Knowing
    - Social Change in Historical Perspectives
    - And/or any course satisfying at least one civic responsibility category.
  - See [http://www.interdisciplinarystudies.tcnj.edu](http://www.interdisciplinarystudies.tcnj.edu) for additional information.

### Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Requirement

All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for:

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<th>IDS 102 – Information Literacy Proficiency (0 unit)</th>
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<tr>
<td>IDS 103 – Community Engaged Learning (0 unit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRP 99 – Summer Reading Program (0 unit)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

A “full” load is four course units.

**Major Requirements:** The Major Requirements section provides a list of the specific courses you are required to take during your first semester.

You will be preregistered for them. If you have AP credits, please check with the department chair. To take chemistry you must be calculus ready (SAT score ≥ 650) or otherwise take MAT 096, Precalculus (0 unit).

**First Seminar Program (FSP):** The FSP is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning Program. Please select six FSP courses from the categories on the left, and indicate them on your online First Semester Worksheet. View all sections on the First Seminar website: [http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu/](http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu/). Please bear in mind that we will only see them in alphabetical order, not your order of preference, and that we will make every effort to enroll you in one of the six.

**Mathematics:** To determine which math course you are eligible to take, see [http://mathstat.pages.tcnj.edu/information-for-students/calculus-requirement/](http://mathstat.pages.tcnj.edu/information-for-students/calculus-requirement/). If you are not “calculus ready,” you must take MAT 095 Intermediate Algebra or MAT 096 Pre-calculus during your first semester.

**Second Language:** For language placement criteria see [http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/](http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/).

**Liberal Learning:** There are three ways to complete your liberal learning (LL) requirements: a nine-course distribution, a 6 to 8 course Inter-disciplinary Concentration, or a 2nd major. See [http://www.interdisciplinarylearning.tcnj.edu](http://www.interdisciplinarylearning.tcnj.edu) for more information.

Please place your request on your online First Semester Worksheet as above.

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** IDS 102 is a required, on-line, non-credit course administered by the library staff satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning Program. You should meet this proficiency during your first semester. IDS 103 is our way of keeping track of your community engaged learning requirement. As above, you receive no specific academic credit for it, but you should complete it by the end of your first year.

**Summer Reading Program (SRP 99):** This required, non-credited program welcomes you to TCNJ’s intellectual community by asking you to critically read a thought-provoking book and share your insights about the book in small group discussions with your peers led by a facilitator during Welcome Week.