

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
Northwestern University

Approved Distribution Courses - 2025-2026

Area I - Natural Sciences

updated 1/13/2026

Be sure to read these important notes:

The information below pertains to students who started at Northwestern Spring 2023 or earlier. Students who started taking classes at Northwestern after Spring 2023 should refer to the Foundational Disciplines pages:

<https://weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/degree/post-spring-2023-degree/foundational-disciplines/>

Prerequisites. Many approved distribution courses are advanced courses with one or more prerequisites. Prerequisites are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and in course descriptions available through the Registrar's webpage. Make sure you have the prerequisites for a course before you decide to enroll.

Interdisciplinary courses. Some interdisciplinary courses are approved for inclusion in more than one distribution area. ***These courses are listed in bold and italics below***, and all relevant areas are indicated in the "area(s)" column. If you take such a course, you can choose in which eligible area to count it.

When courses are offered. This list includes all courses approved for distribution credit for the indicated academic year. The Registrar's Office maintains lists of distribution courses to be offered each quarter, as well as Yearly Course Planners showing each department's planned course offerings for the year. **Some approved courses may not be offered.**

Lists of approved courses from other years:

www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/degree/distribution-requirements/approved-courses.html

Registrar's Website: www.registrar.northwestern.edu

dept/pgm	number	course title	area(s)
ANTHRO	213	Human Origins	I
ANTHRO	275	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology	I
ANTHRO	309	Human Osteology	I
ANTHRO	312	Human Population Biology	I
ANTHRO	317	Human Evolution	I
ANTHRO	359	The Human Microbiome and Health	I
ANTHRO	375	Advanced Methods in Forensic Anthropology	I
ANTHRO	386	Methods in Human Biology Research	I
ASTRON	101	Modern Cosmology	I
ASTRON	102	Milky Way Galaxy	I
ASTRON	103	Solar System	I
ASTRON	106	A Brief Journey through the Invisible Universe	I
ASTRON	111	Introduction to Astrobiology	I
ASTRON	120	Highlights of Astronomy	I
ASTRON	220-1	Introduction to Astrophysics I: Life Cycle of Stars and Planets	I

ASTRON	220-2	Introduction to Astrophysics II: Galactic Evolution and Cosmology	I
ASTRON	305	Basics of Radio Astronomy	I
ASTRON	390	Current Topics in Astronomy	I
BIOL SCI	103	Diversity of Life	I
BIOL SCI	104	Plant-People Interactions	I
BIOL SCI	109	The Nature of Plants	I
BIOL SCI	150	Human Genetics	I
BIOL SCI	164	Basic Genetics & Evolution	I
BIOL SCI	201	Molecular Biology	I
BIOL SCI	202	Cell Biology	I
BIOL SCI	203	Genetics and Evolution	I
BIOL SCI	239	Fundamentals of Biological Mechanisms	I
BIOL SCI	301	Principles of Biochemistry	I
BIOL SCI	307	Brain Structure, Function, and Evolution	I
BIOL SCI	310	Human Physiology	I
BIOL SCI	333	Plant-Animal Interactions	I
BIOL SCI	354	Systems Biology	I
BIOL SCI	377	The Human Microbiome	I
BIOL SCI	381	Stem Cells and Regeneration	I
BIOL SCI	393	Human Genomics	I
CHEM	131	Fundamentals of Chemistry I	I
CHEM	132	Fundamentals of Chemistry II	I
CHEM	151	General Chemistry I	I
CHEM	152	General Chemistry II	I
CHEM	171	Advanced General Inorganic Chemistry	I
CHEM	172	Advanced General Physical Chemistry	I
CHEM	201	Chemistry of Nature & Culture	I
CHEM	215-1	Organic Chemistry I	I
CHEM	215-2	Organic Chemistry II	I
CHEM	215-3	Organic Chemistry III	I
CHEM	217-1	Accelerated Organic Chemistry I	I
CHEM	217-2	Accelerated Organic Chemistry II	I
CHEM	217-3	Accelerated Organic Chemistry III	I
CIV ENV	203	Earth in the Anthropocene	I
COG SCI	210	Language & the Brain	I
CSD	112	Scientific Exploration of Communication	I
CSD	202	Neurobiology of Communication	I
CSD	301	Anatomy and Physiology of the Vocal Mechanism	I
CSD	302	Anatomy and Physiology of the Peripheral Hearing Mechanism	I
CSD	303	Brain and Cognition; with PSYCH 327	I,III
CSD	305	Phonetics	I,III
CSD	310	Biological Foundations of Speech and Music	I
CSD	318	Introduction to Audiology	I
EARTH	101	Earth Science for the 21st Century	I
EARTH	105	Climate Catastrophes in Earth History	I

EARTH	106	The Ocean, The Atmosphere, & Our Climate	I
EARTH	114	Evolution & the Scientific Method	I
EARTH	170	Earth, the Biosphere, and our Environment	I
EARTH	180	Fantasy Worlds - How to Build Your Own Planet	I
EARTH	203	Earth System History	I
EARTH	210	Earth Systems Science and Climate Change	I
EARTH	212	Ecology & Environmental Change	I
EARTH	213	Decision-Making in the Anthropocene	I
EARTH	214	Physical Earth Science	I
EARTH	215	Physics of Earth's Interior	I
EARTH	300	Earth and Planetary Materials	I
EARTH	301	Petrology: Evolution of Crustal and Mantle Rocks	I
EARTH	310	Aqueous Geochemistry	I
EARTH	314	Organic Geochemistry	I
EARTH	323	Seismology & Earth Structure	I
EARTH	324	Earthquakes and Tectonics	I
EARTH	340	Physics of Weather and Climate	I
EARTH	341	Quaternary Climate Change: Ice Ages to the Age of Oil	I
EARTH	342	Contemporary Energy and Climate Change	I
EARTH	343	Earth System Modeling	I
EARTH	370	Geobiology	I
EARTH	371	Biogeochemistry	I
ENVR POL	352-0	Maple Syrup and Climate Change	I
ISEN	220	Introduction to Energy Systems for the Twenty-First Century	I
LING	250	Sound Patterns in Human Language	I
LING	350	Fundamentals of Laboratory Phonology	I
MATH	327	Mechanics for Mathematicians	I,II
NEUROSCI	102	College and the Brain	I
NEUROSCI	202	Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience	I
NEUROSCI	206	Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience	I
NEUROSCI	320	Animal Behavior	I
NEUROSCI	360	Neuroscience of Brain Disorders	I
NEUROSCI	366	Brain Function Through the Lens of Computation	I
NEUROSCI	371	Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis	I
NEUROSCI	377	Neurobiology of Sensation and Perception	I
PHYSICS	103	Ideas of Physics	I
PHYSICS	125-1	General Physics for ISP	I
PHYSICS	125-2	General Physics for ISP	I
PHYSICS	125-3	General Physics for ISP	I
PHYSICS	130-1	College Physics	I
PHYSICS	130-2	College Physics	I
PHYSICS	130-3	College Physics	I
PHYSICS	135-1	General Physics	I

PHYSICS	135-2	General Physics	I
PHYSICS	135-3	General Physics	I
PHYSICS	140-1	Fundamentals of Physics	I
PHYSICS	140-2	Fundamentals of Physics	I
PHYSICS	140-3	Fundamentals of Physics	I
PHYSICS	239	Foundations of Modern Physics	I
PHYSICS	312	Scalar and Vector Field Methods in Physics	I
PHYSICS	357	Optics Laboratory	I
PSYCH	221	Introduction to Neuroscience	I
PSYCH	324	Perception	I,III
PSYCH	327	Brain and Cognition; with CSD 303	I,III
PSYCH	328	Brain Damage & the Mind	I,III
PSYCH	336	Consciousness	I,III
PSYCH	374	Human Memory	I,III
PSYCH	378	Images of Cognition	I,III