SCIENCE

The Core science requirement aims to develop critical awareness of the methods and limits of scientific inquiry, while fostering observational and analytical skills, particularly in reference to the natural and physical world. When choosing a science course, students should make sure they have reviewed and met the specified prerequisites for the course prior to enrollment.

Students who are considering careers in science-related fields, including health-related professions, are urged to begin their study of science within the first two semesters after matriculation at GS.

Science Requirement
To fulfill the science requirement, students must successfully complete three courses selected from two of the following Columbia departments or from the list of approved courses below, no more than two of which should be from the same department:

- Astronomy
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology
- Physics
- Psychology (Columbia department only, excluding courses numbered at the 2600, 3600, or 4600 level)

Students who matriculate in spring 2023 or earlier may also use international high school leaving exams for which they received at least three transfer credits on the Entrance Credit Report (ECR) in one of the disciplines listed above to fulfill one of the three science requirement courses. Students who matriculate in fall 2023 and later will not be able to receive science credit for international leaving exams.

List of Approved Science Courses
The list of approved courses that fulfill the science requirement includes recommended sequences, science courses for non-science majors, and approved courses from departments not listed above and Barnard.

The following two courses may satisfy both the QR requirement and one science requirement when passed with a letter-grade of C or above. The P/D/F grading option is not available for either of these two courses.

- Foundations of Science (SCNC UN1212)
  Using modern, student-centered, active and collaborative learning techniques, students will engage — through field observations, in-class experiments, computer simulations, and selected readings — with a range of ideas and techniques designed to integrate and anchor scientific habits of mind. Topics covered will include statistics, basic probability, a variety of calculations skills, graph reading and estimation, all aimed at elucidating such concepts as energy, matter, cells, and genes in the context of astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, neuroscience, and physics.

- FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE (SCNC CC1000)
  The principal objectives of Frontiers of Science are to engage students in the process of discovery by exploring topics at the forefront of science and to inculcate or reinforce the specific habits of mind that inform a scientific perspective on the world. Sample topics include the evolution of human language, brain dynamics, global climate change, the nanoworld, and biodiversity, among others.

GS students interested in taking one of these courses should have earned a minimum score of 16 on the GS Quantitative Reasoning Exam and/or meet the specific criteria listed in the Quantitative Reasoning section of the website by the specified timelines. Prior to enrolling in Frontiers of Science, students should also read the first chapter of the electronic textbook Scientific Habits of Mind and take the self-exam.

Courses Designed For Nonscience Majors

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Additional Courses Approved for the Science Requirement

Most of the following courses have required prerequisites and/or require instructor approval. Prerequisite and instructor approval requirements can be found in the course descriptions for each course or on the department website.

Astronomy
Any 3-point course numbered 2000 or higher

Biology
Any 3-point course numbered 2000 or higher

Chemistry
CHEM UN1403 GENERAL CHEMISTRY I-LECTU
CHEM UN1404 GENERAL CHEMISTRY II-LECTURES
CHEM UN1500 GENERAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY
CHEM UN1604 2ND TERM GEN CHEM (INTENSIVE)
CHEM UN2507 Intensive General Chemistry Laboratory
Any 3-point course numbered 3000 or higher

Computer Science
COMS W1004 Introduction to Computer Science and Programming in Java
COMS W1005 Introduction to Computer Science and Programming in MATLAB
ENGI E1006 INTRO TO COMP FOR ENG/APP SCI
COMS W1007 Honors Introduction to Computer Science
Any 3-point course numbered 3000 or higher

Computing Science - Philosophy (CSPH)
CSPH G4801 Mathematical Logic I
CSPH G4802 Math Logic II: Incompletness

Earth and Environmental Sciences
EESC UN2100 Earth's Environmental Systems: The Climate System
EESC UN2200 EARTH'S ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS: THE SOLID EARTH
EESC UN2300 Earth's Environmental Systems: The Life System
Any 3-point course numbered 3000 or higher

Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology
EEEB UN2001 Environmental Biology I: Elements to Organisms
EEEB UN2002 Environmental Biology II: Organisms to the Biosphere
EEEB UN3087 Conservation Biology (Any 3-point course numbered 3000 or higher except EEEB GU4321 or EEEB GU4700)

History-Applied Math
HSAM UN2901 Data: Past, Present, and Future

Mathematics
Any 3-point course numbered 1100 or higher

Physics
PHYS UN1201 General Physics I
PHYS UN1202 General Physics II
PHYS UN1401 Introduction To Mechanics and Thermodynamics
PHYS UN1402 INTRO ELEC/MAGNETSM # OPTCS
PHYS UN1403 Introduction to Classical and Quantum Waves
PHYS UN1601 Physics, I: Mechanics and Relativity

Note: Students electing to take Human Origins and Evolution (EEEB UN1010) and Behavioral Biology of the Living Primates (EEEB UN1011) as a sequence are recommended, but not required, to take EEEB UN1010 before EEEB UN1011.

Note: 2600-, 3600-, or 4600-level psychology courses may not be used to fulfill the science requirement.

Note: The Science of Psychology (PSYC UN1001) or an equivalent introductory course approved by the Psychology Department must be taken as a prerequisite to any psychology course numbered 22xx or 24xx.

Students may not receive credit for both PSYC BC 1101 and PSYC UN 1001. Psychology majors should consult the Psychology department for additional restrictions on overlapping courses.
PHYS UN1602  Physics, II: Thermodynamics, Electricity, and Magnetism

Any 3-point course numbered 2000 or higher

Psychology*
Any 3-point course numbered 22xx, 24xx, 32xx, 34xx, 42xx, or 44xx **

Statistics
Any 3-point course except STAT W3997

*  
**

Note: 2600-, 3600-, or 4600-level psychology courses may not be used to fulfill the science requirement.

Note: These courses may serve as a second term of a recommended sequence starting with The Science of Psychology (PSYC UN1001).

Special Summer Program
The following special program fulfills two of the three terms of the science requirement.

Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability [EICES]
- Summer Ecosystem Experience for Undergraduates (SEE-U):  
  Locations change yearly. Check with the center in the spring semester for details.