

Natural Science Program Core Revision

Presented by Carly A. Kocurek, January 2026

Rationale

- The science requirement is high compared to peer institutions and IAI
- Sequencing in multiple parts of core make the core confusing and throw us WAY out of line with IAI (we have the most carveouts of any institution!)
- Our time to degree is not very good, and it hurts our rankings—our students are in school longer and take more classes, compared to peer institutions, including ALTUs like RPI, RIT, Stevens, etc. and local schools like DePaul, Loyola, UIC, UIUC, Purdue
- Transferring into Illinois Tech is hard, which makes it harder to recruit transfer students and students with significant dual enrollment and dual credit experience
- This requirement is particularly impacting students in degrees like psychology, business, game design, and communication, which all have strong market demand and potential for growth.

Proposed Change

Current Core

1. Natural Science or Engineering: 10-11 credit hours

This component may be satisfied by courses in engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, or courses in architecture, food safety and technology, and psychology marked with an **(N)**. These courses must be distributed as follows:

1. Two sequential natural science or engineering courses in a single field.
([CHEM 124](#) with [MS 201](#) satisfies this requirement. FDSN can be considered in the same field as BIOL.)
2. At least one natural science or engineering course in a second field.

Current Core

1. Natural Science or Engineering: 7 credit hours
This component may be satisfied by courses marked with an **(N)**. These courses must be distributed as follows:

1. A minimum of two courses, at least one of which must include a lab.