

NATURAL HISTORY MINOR (B.SC.) (24 CREDITS)

Offered by: Redpath Museum (Faculty of Science)

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Program credit weight: 24

Program Description

The Minor Natural History involves the exploration of the natural world via specimen-based studies, object-oriented investigations and field studies. Museum collections are used to provide hands-on experience with real objects and specimens. The required course brings students to the Redpath Museum and other McGill natural science museums and exposes them to natural history methodologies and the value of specimen-based studies. Complementary course lists are drawn from a variety of disciplines to emphasize breadth and integration with the inclusion of specimen- or object-based courses and field courses in zoology, botany, and earth and environmental sciences. To ensure breadth, students are required to choose courses from among these lists. A compulsory field course component rounds out the program.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Required Course (3 credits)

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Course	Title	Credits
REDM 400	Science and Museums.	3

Complementary Courses (21 credits)

Students select 21 credits from among four course lists (A (Zoology), B (Botany), C (Earth and Environmental Sciences), and D (Field Courses)) with the following specifications.

- At least 3 credits and no more than 9 credits from each of Lists A, B, and C.
- At least 3 credits from List D.
- No more than 3 credits from any one list may be at the 200 level.

Note: Students may take up to a maximum of 9 credits of courses outside the Faculties of Arts and of Science.

List A: Zoology

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Course	Title	Credits
AEBI 211	Organisms 2.	3
ANTH 312	Zooarchaeology.	3
BIOL 205	Functional Biology of Plants and Animals. ¹	3
BIOL 215	Introduction to Ecology and Evolution. ¹	3
BIOL 305	Animal Diversity.	3

BIOL 350	Insect Biology and Control. ²	3
BIOL 352	Dinosaur Biology.	3
BIOL 363	Mammalian Evolution.	3
BIOL 418	Freshwater Invertebrate Ecology.	3
BIOL 427	Herpetology.	3
ENTO 330	Insect Biology. ²	3
EPSC 334	Invertebrate Paleontology.	3
WILD 307	Natural History of Vertebrates.	3
WILD 350	Mammalogy.	3
WILD 420	Ornithology.	3

- ¹ BIOL 205 Functional Biology of Plants and Animals. and BIOL 215 Introduction to Ecology and Evolution. may be applied to either List A or List B.
- ² If chosen, students may take either ENTO 330 or BIOL 350.

List B: Botany

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Course	Title	Credits
AEBI 210	Organisms 1.	3
BIOL 205	Functional Biology of Plants and Animals. ¹	3
BIOL 215	Introduction to Ecology and Evolution. ¹	3
BIOL 240	Monteregian Flora.	3
BIOL 355	Trees: Ecology and Evolution.	3
PLNT 304	Biology of Fungi.	3
PLNT 353	Plant Structure and Function.	3
PLNT 358	Flowering Plant Diversity.	3
PLNT 460	Plant Ecology.	3

- ¹ BIOL 205 Functional Biology of Plants and Animals. and BIOL 215 Introduction to Ecology and Evolution. may be applied to either List A or List B.

List C: Earth and Environmental Sciences

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Course	Title	Credits
BIOL 540	Ecology of Species Invasions.	3
ENVR 200	The Global Environment.	3
ENVR 202	The Evolving Earth.	3
EPSC 210	Introductory Mineralogy.	3
EPSC 233	Earth and Life Through Time	3
ESYS 200	Earth-System Interactions.	3
ESYS 300	Earth Data Analysis.	3
GEOG 203	Environmental Systems.	3
GEOG 272	Earth's Changing Surface.	3
GEOG 470	Wetlands.	3
GEOG 550	Historical Ecology Techniques.	3

List D: Field Studies

Students may also take other field courses with the permission of the Program Adviser.

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Course	Title	Credits
BIOL 331	Ecology/Behaviour Field Course.	3
BIOL 335	Marine Mammals.	3
BIOL 573	Vertebrate Palaeontology Field Course.	3
ENTO 340	Field Entomology.	3
EPSC 231	Field School 1.	3
WILD 475	Desert Ecology.	3