A Calculus Choice for Biology Students with AP Calculus Credit

Mathematical biology, biostatistics, and bioinformatics are rapidly growing fields that offer many opportunities for people whose interests and talents include both biological and mathematical sciences. Biology students usually enroll in the Math 1025-1026 calculus sequence, but students interested in keeping options in mathematical biology and related fields open should consider enrolling in the calculus sequence taken by students majoring in engineering and the physical and mathematical sciences. This calculus sequence is the most challenging calculus sequence at Virginia Tech. It is the only calculus sequence that includes honors sections. Although these calculus courses discuss few biological applications, they prepare students to study differential equations (Math 2214) and multivariable calculus (Math 2204), subjects used in mathematically sophisticated biological models.

If you score a **3 on the AP Calculus AB exam**, you receive credit for Math 1025 and 1026. Consider taking Math 1225 to begin the single variable calculus sequence.

If you score a **4 or 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam or a 3 on the AP Calculus BC exam**, you receive credit for Math 1225 and 1026. Consider taking Math 1226 to complete single variable calculus.

If you score a **4 or 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam**, you receive credit for Math 1225 and Math 1226, all 8 hours of single variable calculus. Consider taking Math 2204, multivariable calculus, or Math 1114 if you wish to prepare to take differential equations.

Math 1225 – the first 4 credit hours of single-variable calculus.
Math 1226 – the final 4 credit hours of single-variable calculus.
Math 1114 – a 2 credit introduction to linear algebra; a prerequisite for the differential equations course.
Math 2204 – a 3 credit hour course in multivariable calculus.

To discuss these calculus choices with someone from the math department, contact:

Jessica Hurdus
McBryde 447
540-231-5162
jmhurdus@vt.edu

This sheet is available on the web at: http://www.math.vt.edu/ugFlowCharts.php under the title Biology Majors with AP Calculus Credit.