

Academic Advancement Policy and Core Course Prerequisites

To best prepare students for the Science WASL students need to take the earth-life science sequence. Specifically, students will take Earth Science their freshman year and then a life science course their sophomore year. To enter Biology students must have earned a 70% or greater in Earth Science or have the biology teacher's permission. Students not passing Earth Science would need to retake this class. Students who pass this course with a 60-69% (determined by the average of both semester grades) would be required to take a remedial science course (such as Life Science or Environmental Science) that is aligned with the life science strand of the science EALRS. The goal of this remedial course would be to provide the requisite skills and knowledge for these students so that they can be better prepared for the WASL and provided with another opportunity to enter Biology if they earn a 70% or greater in this remedial course.

Science WASL

The Science WASL has been rescheduled by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction from 2010 to 2013. The 9th/10th grade science program has committed itself to teaching to these science standards and has integrated them into the science curriculum. If you are interested in seeing what the grade-level expectations (GLE's) are for your student at MSHS in science please go to the following OSPI website to see these standards:

 <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WASL/Sciencepubdocs/ScienceGLEswithWASLEvidencesofLrng.pdf>

College Prep

For those students who see college on the "graduation horizon" (or are contemplating this endeavor) are strongly encouraged to take Chemistry their junior or senior year. Successful completion of both semesters of Biology with a 70% or greater will be the prerequisite for entry into Chemistry. Chemistry requires that a student has taken a year of algebra and is taking another higher math class concurrently. In respects to science requirements for state colleges, the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board has proposed the following revisions to the state's **minimum** admission requirements for freshmen entering Washington's public four-year colleges and universities, beginning in summer 2008: "two credits of laboratory science, one of which is algebra-based". For further information in the admission requirements for Washington State colleges go to the following website: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/research/issues/admissions.asp>. Please see my Biology SharePoint site (access information on back) if you would like more information about the science program here and science course offerings.