

BIOL 385 – Student Info

Revised March 2023

1. Course Description

Internship in Biology (0–2) FA, SP, SU. This course is for students participating in an internship that emphasizes professional application of the concepts and principles learned as part of a Biology program. A student has responsibilities in a laboratory, office, private firm, not-for-profit organization, or government agency. The student works on a specific project under the direct supervision of an employer-supervisor and/or faculty internship coordinator. On-campus internships are to be completed under an appropriate Calvin supervisor, while off-campus internships are to be completed under the supervision of the designated faculty internship coordinator. All students must maintain an internship journal and present an oral or written report summarizing the internship experience. For off-campus internships, students will also be evaluated by their employer-supervisor. Only 4 credits from BIOL 385, 390, and/or 399 may be used to satisfy the requirements for the Biology major. Prerequisites: approval of the faculty internship coordinator

2. BIOL 385 may be taken for variable credit from 0–2 credit hours per semester.

The number of credits earned for an internship should correlate with the number of hours spent at the internship. Students should expect to work a minimum of 50 total hours per credit hour earned.

3. BIOL 385 has requirements for the student, internship supervisor, and faculty internship coordinator.

To receive credit for an internship, students will need to:

- Complete the BIOL 385 enrollment form and file it with the faculty internship coordinator (who will then file it with the registrar to formally enroll them in the course)
- Keep a reflective journal during the course of their internship experience
- Submit all required assignments during the semester they are enrolled in BIOL 385

Students will collaborate with the faculty internship coordinator to determine which assignments would be most appropriate to complete. Depending on the nature of the internship, these assignments could include several of the following:

- A poster presentation at one or more venues
- An oral presentation delivered at a conference or in a departmental seminar
- An annotated bibliography summarizing primary literature related to the internship
- A formal manuscript summarizing research carried out during the internship
- A review paper covering a topic related to the internship
- A case study report related to work carried out during the internship
- A reflection paper on one or more unique aspects of the internship

The student's grade will be based on an assessment by the internship supervisor and evaluation of required assignments by the faculty internship coordinator.

4. BIOL 385 may be taken during any term.

Most internships will likely be completed as full-time jobs during the summer. In these cases, students would typically enroll in BIOL 385 during the fall semester immediately following the internship, when the student would work to complete all required assignments. Some students may do internships on a part-time basis during the academic year, when students would register for the desired number of credit hours during the semester(s) of the internship. Registering for BIOL 385 during the summer is also possible, but this requires an additional tuition payment on a per credit basis.

Questions? Contact david.koetje@calvin.edu