Information Regarding Student Participation in a Biology 290 Directed Research Course

Student Involvement in Faculty-Directed Research

Biology Department faculty are involved in a number of research projects which have opportunities for student participation. From time to time students are recruited by faculty to work on such projects. A mutually beneficial experience for both student and faculty requires, at a minimum, student interest in research, some training and experience in biology and chemistry, and a willingness to work regularly on a project throughout a semester.

Student participation on research projects is entirely voluntary. Students should not feel compelled or pressured to work on a project. If a student is not interested in working on a research project, or the particular project for which he/she may be recruited is not inherently interesting, the student should so indicate. Since directed research is not required as part of a biology major, a decision not to participate in a research project has no consequences with regard to earning a degree in biology.

Directed Research (Biology 290) Course Credit

The Biology Department may permit a student to enroll in a Biology 290 course in order to do directed research and/or reading when he/she has demonstrated competence in the academic discipline involved and has shown an ability to study on his/her own initiative. Directed research will involve the student in research and/or reading in an area not covered in the regular course offerings of the Biology Department. A student wishing to register for Biology 290 must have completed four courses in biology and/or chemistry and must have an overall GPA of at least 3.3 in those courses. Students may register for 1-3 Biology 290 credits per semester.

Biology 290 directed research projects must be defined in advance of registration for the course. Students wishing to register for Biology 290 credit should obtain the form "Request for Permission to Register for Biology 290 Directed Research" from the department chair or from the instructor supervising the research. After completing the form, it must be submitted to the supervising instructor. After being approved by the department chair, the student may register for Biology 290.

Expectations of Students Participating in Research

Students are expected (1) to perform at least one half day of laboratory research and/or reading (4+ hours) per week; (2) to use superior laboratory technique; (3) to keep thorough written records of their work, observations, etc.; (4) to read papers and perform library research as required; (5) to write a final report; (6) to communicate regularly with the faculty supervisor; and (7) to present a 20-25 minute oral presentation at a departmental seminar if the project and data are appropriate.
Request to Apply for Biology 290 Directed Research

Name __________________________________________ Date ____________________________

Local address _____________________________________________________________

Telephone number ___________________________________________ Cumulative GPA: ______

List the biology course(s) that you have completed or that are in progress (designate as “IP”). Write the grade received next to each completed course.

111_____ 224_____ 323_____ 336_____ 354_____  
115_____ 225_____ 325_____ 338_____ 385_____  
141_____ 250_____ 331_____ 341_____ 390_____  
205_____ 295_____ 332_____ 344_____ 399_____  
206_____ 311_____ 333_____ 345_____ 394_____  
207_____ 313_____ 334_____ 346_____ 395_____  
123_____ 321_____ 335_____ 364_____ other (specify): ______

List the chemistry course(s) that you have completed or that are in progress (designate as “IP”). Write the grade received next to each completed course.

103_____ 115_____ 253_____ 271_____ 383_____  
104_____ 201_____ 261_____ 323_____  
105_____ 230_____ 262_____ 324_____ other (specify): ______

Do you have laboratory experience other than that associated with courses? If so, describe briefly.

Do you enjoy laboratory work? ___________ If yes, what aspect(s) of laboratory work appeal to you most?

Do you have any moral or ethical objections to the use, within federal and state guidelines, of living animal models (e.g., mice) for biomedical research? ___________ If yes, explain briefly.

What do you see as the long term benefit of the research project to you?

Please return this form to the Supervising Instructor or to the Department Chairperson
Request for Permission to Register
for Biology 290
Directed Research

The Biology Department provides an opportunity for a student to do directed research and/or reading when he/she has demonstrated competence in the academic discipline involved and has shown an ability to study on his/her own initiative. Directed research will involve the student in research and/or reading not covered in the regular course offerings of the Biology Department.

Directed research projects must be defined in advance of registration for the course. A student wishing to register for Biology 290 must complete this form in consultation with a supervising instructor. Biology 290 courses must be completed within the regular semester.

Students may take Biology 290 for 1-3 credits. These may be applied to the total needed for graduation, but do not satisfy an upper level requirement in the biology program. To be eligible for directed research a student must have completed at least two courses in Biology.

Describe the proposed project, including the research and/or reading that will be done and the basis for determining the level of achievement. Use an additional page if necessary.