Biology/Biochemistry Upper-Division Writing Requirement Form

Biology and Biochemistry majors must submit a writing sample from an upper-division Biology course to complete the Upper-Division Writing Requirement. The submitted material will be marked either “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” for grammar and writing quality only, not for scientific content, by the Writing Program. If the writing sample is judged to be unsatisfactory, the student will have the opportunity to make revisions as specified by the Writing Program. All Upper-Division Writing Requirement submissions must be at least 750 words. A list of courses that commonly offer a paper or laboratory report appropriate for submission can be found on the back of this page. Students completing the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) must also register for the 0-credit BIO 459 to complete the requirement "Write Effectively within One's Discipline" (WRTD). More information about BIO 459 can be found on the back of this form.

The writing sample and this form, signed by both the student and instructor, should be submitted to the Undergraduate Biology Main Office. Students will be contacted via email when a decision is reached.

Name ________________________________ Stony Brook ID ________________________________
Phone ________________________________ Student Email ________________________________
Major ________________________________ Course ________________________________
Expected Graduation Date __________________ Material Submitted __________________

I hereby certify that the written material submitted herewith was written by me.

________________________________________________
Signature of Student Date

I verify that the attached written material was submitted by this student for the above-named course

________________________________________________
Signature of Instructor Date

Decision of Writing Program

________________________________________________
Reader Date
Satisfactory O Unsatisfactory

Does not meet standards for:

O thoughtful presentation O accuracy of punctuation, syntax, and usage
O clear and appropriate organization O accuracy of verb usage
O sentence-to-sentence cohesion

Comments ________________________________________________________________
Frequently asked Questions about BIO 459

What is BIO 459?

BIO 459 is a zero credit course for students following the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC). This course does not meet or have assignments; you register simply to indicate that you are intending to complete your Upper-Division Writing Requirement in an appropriate co-requisite upper-division Biology course (see below). When you submit your Upper-Division Writing Requirement, and it is marked “satisfactory” by the Writing Program, you will receive an “S” grade in BIO 459.

How do I know if I should register for BIO 459?

If you are following the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) and want to satisfy the general education requirement "Write Effectively within One’s Discipline" (WRTD), you should register for BIO 459. Students following the DEC do not need to register for BIO 459, as this course does not satisfy a course in their general education requirements.

Courses that typically offer a paper for the Upper-Division Writing Requirement*:

- BIO 311 Techniques in Molecular and Cellular Biology
- BIO 312 Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
- BIO 316 Molecular Immunology
- BIO 327 Developmental Genetics Laboratory
- BIO 335 Neurobiology Laboratory
- BIO 338 From Synapse to Circuit: Self-organization of the Brain
- BIO 341 Plant Diversity
- BIO 344 Chordate Zoology
- BIO 350 Darwinian Medicine
- BIO 352 Ecology Laboratory
- BIO 353 Marine Ecology
- BIO 354 Evolution
- BIO 356 Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology Laboratory
- BIO 359 Behavioral Ecology
- BIO 364 Laboratory Techniques in Cancer Biology
- BIO 365 Biochemistry Laboratory
- BIO 366 Molecular Microbiology Laboratory
- BIO 367 Molecular Diversity Laboratory
- BIO 385 Plant Ecology
- BIO 386 Ecosystem Ecology and the Global Environment

Materials from other upper-division Biology courses may be used if they include a suitable writing component. A paper from any BIO Readings or Research course will also be accepted.

*This list is subject to change.