

UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: BIOL 486 – Genome Science

Date Submitted: September 2015

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2016

| | Name | Email | Phone | Dept |
|-------------------|------------------|--|--------------|---------|
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COURSE INFORMATION: (please provide all information in the “current” column, and only the information changing in the “proposed” column)

| change | | current | proposed |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Course Number(s) | BIOL 486 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Formal Title | Genome Sciences | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Transcript Title (≤30c) | Genome Sciences | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Recommended Course Preparation | You must have completed STAT 350 or STAT 355 and BIOL 302 and CHEM 351 with a grade of “C” or better | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a “D” or better. | | You must have completed [STAT 350 or STAT 355] and BIOL 302, BIOL 303 and CHEM 351 with a grade of “C” or better |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Credits | 4.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Repeatable? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Max. Total Credits | 4.00 | Max. Total Credits: This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Grading Method(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail | <input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail |

CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Life science at the whole genome level represents a rapidly expanding new paradigm that defines a new field, genome science. BIOL 486 provides students with the requisites for understanding genome science and includes experimental basics of functional genomics and analytical basics of bioinformatics. Biomedical and agricultural research are developing the potential of genome science, in both the public and private sectors. Important questions that have been unapproachable are now thought to be within reach. For example, students in BIOL 486 will learn how genome science may provide tools to unravel the arcane genetics of complex diseases and traits. Information sources will include textbook(s), primary literature and computer methods.

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (no longer than 75 words): leave blank if no changes are being proposed to the catalog description. NOTE: information about prerequisites should NOT appear in the catalog description.)

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

“The BIOL core courses are in a sequence BIOL 141-> BIOL 142 -> BIOL 302 -> BIOL 303, with BIOL 303 serving as a capstone course for the Biology core. The curriculum was designed such that only after completing this course and showing mastery of the core course content, would students move on in the major and take 400 level courses. However, we have a number of 400 level courses offered that do not explicitly require the content of BIOL 303 for student success

in the course and therefore do not currently have it listed as an academic prerequisite. Some students have been taking these courses before completing BIOL 303 and the core, and some of these students have gone on to fail BIOL 303 two times, showing that they do not have mastery of the material and perhaps should be in another major. We would like to make BIOL 303 a prerequisite for all of our 400 level courses, regardless of content, to make this maneuver impossible. We prefer students to show they should be in the major before taking these upper level courses.”