UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: BIOL 495 – Seminar in Bioinformatics

Date Submitted: September 2015 Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2016

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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
☐	Course Number(s)	BIOL 495	
☐	Formal Title	Seminar in Bioinformatics	
☐	Transcript Title (≤30c)	Seminar in Bioinformatics	
☒	Recommended Course Preparation	You must complete BIOL 313 and BIOL 430; and CMSC 341 with a grade of "C" or better CMSC 341 can be taken concurrently.	
☒	Prerequisite **NOTE:** Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.		You must complete BIOL 303, BIOL 313, BIOL 430 and CMSC 341 with a grade of "C" or better. CMSC 341 can be taken concurrently.
☐	Credits	2.00 – 4.00	
☐	Repeatable?	☒ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
☐	Max. Total Credits	2.00 – 4.00	
☐	Grading Method(s)	☒ Reg (A-F) ☐ Audit ☐ Pass-Fail	☐ Reg (A-F) ☐ Audit ☐ Pass-Fail

CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A "capstone" seminar course for students in the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Program. Students will be introduced to examples of the integrated uses of the various disciplines that together comprise bioinformatics and computational biology. Variable credit course is repeatable.

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."