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

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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		
☒	Prerequisite **NOTE:** Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.	You must complete BIOL 303 and BIOL 313 and BIOL 430 and CMSC 341 with a grade of C or better. CMSC 341 can be taken concurrently	You must complete BIOL 303 and BIOL 313 and CMSC 202 all with a grade of C or better.
☐	Credits	4.00	
☐	Repeatable?	☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
☐	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.
☐	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.

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:
BIOL 430-Biological Chemistry is not needed for BIOL 495-Seminar in Bioinformatics. Students taking the Bioinformatics major can take BIOL 430 any time. Those completing the BINF minor are not required to take BIOL 430 but they do need BIOL 495, so having that extra pre-requirement would not make sense for minor students--it increases the number of courses needed to obtain the minor. Students need to be familiar with programming. CMSC 202-Computer Science II for Majors satisfies that need; there is no need to require that CMSC 341-Data Structures be taken before BIOL 495.