

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Biological Sciences Minor

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Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2021

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Specifics (see instructions):

Biological Sciences Minor

Current:

Required BIOL classes (16 cr.):

BIOL 141 (4) Foundations of Biology: Cells, Energy, & Organisms

BIOL 142 (4) Foundations of Biology: Ecology & Evolution

BIOL 302 (4) Molecular & General Genetics

BIOL 303 (4) Cell Biology

Elective courses (choose 1) (2-4 cr.):

Any BIOL 3XX or 4XX level lecture or laboratory course (except BIOL 396, BIOL 397, BIOL 398, BIOL 399, BIOL 495, BIOL 497H, BIOL 499, BIOL 499H, or BIOL 499L). Students may use BIOL 300L as the minor elective.

Proposed:

Required BIOL classes (16 cr.):

BIOL 141 (4) Foundations of Biology: Cells, Energy, & Organisms

BIOL 142 (4) Foundations of Biology: Ecology & Evolution

BIOL 302 (4) Molecular & General Genetics

BIOL 303 (4) Cell Biology

Elective courses (choose 1) (2-4 cr.):

Any BIOL 3XX or 4XX level lecture or laboratory course (except **BIOL 395**, BIOL 396, BIOL 397, BIOL 398, BIOL 399, BIOL 495, BIOL 497H, BIOL 499, BIOL 499H, or BIOL 499L). Students may use BIOL 300L as the minor elective.

Rationale (see instructions):

Content in BIOL 395 – U-RISE Writing in the Sciences (titled MARC U*STAR Writing in the Sciences until Spring 2021) does not meet minimal biology-related material needed to be a minor elective. BIOL 395 is a 2-credit writing seminar designed specifically for U-RISE scholars. As part of their NIH grant, U-RISE students must take a writing course. BIOL 395 assists students in reading scientific literature, writing CVs, and preparing graduate school/grant applications.

Three years ago, the Department noticed several electives, such as variable credit research courses and one-credit seminars for our special population students (i.e. U-RISE scholars), that were missing from the exceptions list for

the BIOL minor's "Any BIOL 3XX- or 4XX-level course" elective requirement. BIOL 395 was mistakenly left off of the UGC proposal to fix this omission.