

Department of Biology
Thomas Harriot College
of Arts and Sciences

Howell Science Complex
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858-4353

252-328-6718 office
252-328-4178 fax
www.biology.ecu.edu

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

TO: Educational Policies and Planning Committee
FROM: Jean-Luc Scemama, Associate Professor and Director, Undergraduate Studies in Biology
Date: September 3, 2013
RE: BS in Biology – Request for new concentrations

This memorandum summarizes our request for three new concentrations in the BS Biology.

Years of curriculum assessment and an external review of the Biology department pointed out a number of deficiencies in our curriculum. The Biology faculty developed revision plan to reinforce our core and to include 3 concentrations; general biology, ecology/evolution and molecular/cell biology. We added 3 more classes to the Core; BIOL 3030 (Principles of Physiology), BIOL 3260 (Cell and Developmental biology) and BIOL 3620 (Biological Evolution).

The core is now composed of an 11 SH introductory series that includes BIOL 1100, 1101, 1200, 1201 and 2300. The introductory series is followed by 9-12 SH of mid-level courses (BIOL 2250, 3030, 3260, and 3620). Students in the general biology concentration take all 4 while students in the other concentrations have a choice and take only 3 out of 4. These changes increase the core hours from 15 SH to 20-23 SH.

Concentration requirement electives include classes to be chosen within the concentration as specific electives, classes to be chosen from the other electives and classes to be chosen among all biology electives for a total of 18-21 SH of biology electives.

We have also simplified the research skills option by requiring that all our students take ENGL 3820 and a statistics class (Math 2228 or BIOS 1500 or Math 2283). We removed the possibility of using a foreign language as a research skill.

The changes have been reviewed and approved by the University curriculum committee. We respectfully request approval of the new concentrations by the EEPC.

[LINK TO BUDGET MATERIAL](#)

