

Bio 196/ Research in Biology

—2 credits (normal option) or 4 credits (for Honors projects). Available fall and spring semesters.

—SIGNATURES: Registration requires the signature of the biology research coordinator (Dr. Temple) and requires prior arrangement with the research advisor. (See above re: finding a project).

—PREREQUISITE: Two years of college biology and minimum GPA of 2.00 in the major.

—CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An opportunity for upper-level students to design and execute an independent project in biology, including laboratory or field research, under the supervision of biology, psychobiology, or RISE faculty. A one-hour weekly research seminar meeting is required, where students present work in progress and receive logistical guidance. Interested students should meet with a faculty member to plan the project and establish the amount of credit before registration. Students normally enroll for 2 credits, especially when beginning a new project. Students conducting honors research in biology should register for this course rather than registering for HON 109 and 110. Two semesters of Biol 196 satisfy one laboratory course requirement toward the major. May be repeated, but a maximum of 8 credits of Biol 195 and 196 can be counted toward the 21-credit upper-level requirement for the biology major.

—EXPECTATIONS: Requirements under this independent study option vary widely with the nature of the project you undertake. A written report is usually required; in all cases students will hand in at least a ledger of their activities. Keep in close contact with your faculty supervisor about his/her expectations. Before the end of the sixth week of the semester, you should formally meet with your professor to review your progress. You may be required to withdraw from the course at this time if your progress has been inadequate. You are expected to spend a minimum of 6 hours each week on a 2-credit research project.

—WEEKLY RESEARCH MEETING: One-hour group meeting of all research students is a required component of this experience. This session is typically scheduled for Fridays at 12:30.

—CONFERENCE PRESENTATION: All research students are urged to present their work at a Tri Beta Conference or other research conference, although only Honors students are required to do so. See the section below, "Presenting Research Results."

—FINANCIAL SUPPORT: For projects with biology faculty mentors, the biology department budget provides \$400 per semester for supplies. RISE mentors have separate lines of support, and some professors have grant monies with which to supplement this amount. All biology research students are strongly urged to apply for research grants, the Brooks Awards, from Tri Beta, the Biology Honor Society. The annual deadline comes very early in the fall semester, so consider putting a proposal together the previous spring or summer.