BIOL 507 – Directed Research in Biological Sciences

BIOL 507 is an optional course that students in Biological Sciences may choose to take as part of their requirements towards fulfilling a major in Biological Sciences.

BIOL 507 will be conducted within the jurisdiction of the Department of Biological Sciences. Students are permitted a maximum of 6 units of 507 project courses towards their major field.

Students wishing to undertake a one-term directed research project on a topic that does not clearly fall within a single specialized program or where there is a split in content that does not fit clearly within a single specialized program may enrol in BIOL 507.

If the Supervisor is not a member of Biological Sciences, a Co-Supervisor from the Department of Biological Sciences is required. In this case, both will have to approve the webform submission before you can be enrolled into the course.

Both the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor must be kept apprised of the project during the term and must be involved in the evaluation of the project and determination of the final grade.

Projects undertaken outside the Department of Biological Sciences program must have a component that aligns with the Department of Biological Sciences program.

Getting a Supervisor
It is the responsibility of the student to decide on a general topic of interest for this course and to approach a suitable faculty member regarding supervision. This must be done in advance of initiating enrolment into the course.

Have a project idea but unsure who to approach as a possible Supervisor?
Students who have a project in mind but are unsure which faculty members would be potential supervisors should view the research themes carried out by faculty members in Biological Sciences (https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/research/research-areas)

GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO THE CONDUCT IN BIOL 507

Time commitment
Estimated time commitment is 8-10 hours per week, with additional time for preparation, reading, and to periodically meet with the Supervisor(s) to discuss progress.

Evaluation criteria
Students must agree with the Supervisor(s) on course content and weighting of components. Evaluation criteria may include the preparation of a research proposal, lab notebook assessment, research performance assessment, an oral presentation, and/or a final report. Students must agree with the Supervisor(s) on course content and weighting of components. The final grade will be assigned by the Supervisor(s).
GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO REGISTRATION IN BIOL 507

GPA requirement
To be eligible to register in BIOL 507, students must have completed 54 units, and have a GPA of 2.75 or higher (over the most recent 30 units).

Meeting with potential Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor if applicable):

1. Provide a current unofficial copy of your transcript.
2. Agreed-upon value and due date for all course components must be determined with your Supervisor(s).
3. Students must be aware that there is an Independent Project Agreement & Checklist form to be completed and signed by the student and Supervisor(s). The last page of the form (Checklist) must be completed and signed by the student and submitted with the final report for the project. The form is available here. [https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/current-students/undergraduate/procedures-policies-and-forms](https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/current-students/undergraduate/procedures-policies-and-forms)
4. Be sure to ask about and/or discuss with potential Supervisor(s):
   - Type/topic of research, expectations of the student and of the Supervisor(s), time requirements (e.g., 8-10 hours per week), course components that will be required and graded, deadlines for submission of course components

Once the prospective Supervisor has indicated their willingness to supervise you on your project

Complete the webform ([https://science.ucalgary.ca/usc-independent-research-course-application](https://science.ucalgary.ca/usc-independent-research-course-application)) NO LATER than 10 working days before the addswap deadline in the term ([https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html)).

- If approval is denied at this point, you will be notified by e-mail.
- If approval is granted, staff in the USC will enrol you into the course and you will be notified by email.

**BIOL 507 – Directed Research in Biological Sciences** will count towards a major in Biological Sciences.

The following component values will be discussed and agreed-upon by the student and supervisor(s) during their initial meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation criteria/course component</th>
<th>Due date (if applicable)</th>
<th>Suggested value range (%)</th>
<th>Agreed value in % (Total = 100%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research component (Min. 3, Max. 6 subcomponents)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Letter Grade Conversion**
A+ ≥ 92, A≥ 85, A- ≥ 80, B+ ≥77, B ≥ 73, B- ≥ 70, C+ ≥ 67, C ≥ 64, C- ≥ 60, D+ ≥ 55, D ≥ 50, F < 50