ECOL 507 – Directed Research in Ecology

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

ECOL 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.

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 ECOL 507

Time commitment
Because of the flexible format of Ecology 507, the actual amount of time devoted to the course by the Supervisor(s) will vary considerably. In courses without a formal lecture structure, the student and Supervisor(s) will normally meet regularly to discuss the course material and the progress of the course.

Evaluation criteria
This course is very flexible and may consist of lectures, seminars, reading assignments, term papers and training in theoretical, field and laboratory methods. Faculty members should clearly outline the procedures whereby the student’s performance will be evaluated. This will normally involve an examination, or assessment of one or more written reports or papers. Students must agree with the Supervisor(s) on course content and weighting of components. All written assignments will be read and assessed by the Supervisor(s) and one other faculty member (not necessarily a member of the Program of Ecology).

GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO REGISTRATION IN ECOL 507

GPA requirement
To be eligible to register in ECOL 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 at: [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 or special problem, expectations of the student and of the Supervisor(s), time requirements, 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 add/swap 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.

**ECOL 507 – Directed Research in Ecology** will count towards a major in Ecology or 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research component (Min. 3, Max. 6 subcomponents)</td>
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**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