PLBI 507 – Directed Research in Plant Biology

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

PLBI 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](https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/research/research-areas).

GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO THE CONDUCT OF PLBI 507

Time commitment
Estimated time commitment is 9 hours per week (on the project as a whole, which can include lab work, reading, writing, etc.), plus the time required to meet with the Supervisor(s) periodically to discuss progress.

Evaluation criteria
Within two weeks of enrolling in the course the student must submit to the Supervisor(s) a brief project proposal of 2-4 pages outlining the objectives of the research and details of how the student intends to achieve those objectives. The project may be one designed around laboratory or field experiments or could be of a more theoretical nature making extensive use of the library resources. In the case of co-supervised project, both Supervisors and the student will meet to approve the project. A final written report must be submitted to the Supervisor(s) on the last day of lectures. In the case of co-supervised projects, this report will be assessed by both the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor and a grade will be awarded as a result of consultation between these two individuals. Other evaluation criteria may include the lab notebook assessment, research performance assessment, and/or an oral presentation. Students must agree with the Supervisor(s) on course content and weighting of components.
GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO REGISTRATION IN PLBI 507

GPA requirement
To be eligible to register in PLBI 507, students must have completed 54 units, and have 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
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., 9 hours per week in total on the independent project), 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) - NO LATER than 10 working days before the add/swap deadline in the term (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.

PLBI 507– Directed Research in Plant Biology will count towards a major in Plant Biology 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