Biology 499R, Research for Credit

Student Information

Student: Please read all details carefully. You are responsible for making sure that all steps of the registration process are completed.

WHO CAN SIGN UP?

You must:

1. be declared as a Biology major. If you plan to declare a biology major, you can still register, but failure to declare your major within the first two weeks of the semester will cause you to be dropped from the course. Cancer Biology 4+1 students and QTM majors are the only exceptions.
2. take Biol499R for a minimum of two semesters for 4 credits each semester in order to receive credit toward the major. If acceptable to your research mentor, the two semesters do not have to be consecutive.
3. commit to working on your project 12-16 hours per week. This includes time both in and out of the lab.
4. commit to the increased responsibility that comes from your need to structure the research interactions, set and meet deadlines, and follow all requirements.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

1. Find a research mentor.
   • Most mentors are affiliated with Emory, but some undergraduates have had mentors at the Marcus Autism Center, CDC, Georgia Tech and other locations in Atlanta. See advice provided in Getting Started in Undergraduate Research in Biology about finding a research mentor, http://www.biology.emory.edu/research-opportunities. You must find a research mentor who conducts research within the broad field of the biological sciences. Biophysics research conducted in a physics department, for example, is research related to the biological sciences. Projects can involve lab work, data analysis, bioinformatics or other approaches. Clinical shadowing, while valuable, is not a research experience.

2. Register for Biology 499R by completing the following EACH semester.
   1. Complete the Online Registration Form at least three days before the add/drop/swap deadline in the semester for which you are registering. The form is at: https://forms.gle/6ywtY4475jyUeKyZ6
   2. Upon completion of this form, where you will indicate contact information for your faculty mentor, the Biol 499R course director will contact your faculty mentor. Your faculty mentor will be required to agree to mentor you.
   3. Once you have completed the registration form and your faculty mentor has agreed, via email, to mentor you, you will receive a permission number via email.
   4. To enroll in the class, add the class to your shopping cart in OPUS. Then, in your shopping cart, click on the class name and it will take you to a screen where you can enter the permission number. You must register for 4 hours of credit unless you are a graduating senior and would save money by registering for fewer credit hours. In this case, please contact Dr. Gerardo to discuss this.
THEN WHAT DO I DO?

1. **With your mentor, establish:**
   - the **scope of your project** and other expectations. Science is collaborative, but you should have increasing ownership of your intellectual research question, experimental design, and data analysis as the semesters progress. Some things that you might be expected to do besides lab work include going to lab meetings, presenting at research meetings or meeting regularly to present your lab notebook to your faculty or lab mentor. By setting expectations in advance, you will avoid many problems.
   - your **research schedule**. It is expected that you work for 12-16 hours per week. This includes time in the lab and outside the lab reading and writing on the topic.
   - a schedule for **regular meetings** with your faculty mentor and, if applicable, your direct mentor

2. **Look over the materials provided on the Biol 499R Canvas site carefully.**

3. **Course meetings and assignments**
   - Attend class workshops (see below).
   - Write a final report (Fall) or present a poster (Spring). Failure to complete these on time will result in an F in the course.
   - In addition to your final report (Fall) or poster (Spring), you will have several mid-semester course assignments concerning your research project each semester. Late submissions will affect your grade for the course.

4. **Arrange for your faculty mentor to submit a grade by the last day of classes each semester.**
   - Your faculty mentor’s evaluation of the quality of your research and report/poster will be reviewed by the course director to determine your final grade.
**Biology 499R, Research for Credit**

**Student Schedule**

There will be several required workshops each semester. For each meeting, you can attend 1 of 4 sessions.

- Thursdays from 10 to 11 AM or
- Thursdays 5:30 to 6:30 PM or
- Fridays from 3 to 4:00 PM or
- Sundays from 2 to 3 PM

Please keep one of these free in your schedule. The meeting locations will be posted on the 499R site by January. The first meeting will be after the course change deadline.

Assignments will be submitted electronically on the Biol499 course site.

A complete schedule will be made available in January.