• In registering for Bio499, the student is agreeing to do research in your lab for at least two semesters. S/he is agreeing to work ~3-4 hours per credit per week in and out of the lab on a project.

• Students will work on the project both semesters, gaining more independence throughout the year in understanding the scientific background, designing experiments, analyzing data, and reporting conclusions. In intellectual ownership, they are more than just work/study laborers but are not yet at the level of graduate students. Your mentorship will help them develop their scientific knowledge and skills.

• Students are expected to arrange meetings with you and/or their more direct mentor (sometimes a postdoctoral fellow or graduate student) to discuss expectations for the project and regularly thereafter to review their progress. If the s/he has a more direct mentor, the student should minimally meet with the faculty mentor three times during the semester (for 499 application signature and discussion of expectations, mid-semester check-in, and final review and grade form).

• Students must also attend four course meetings about research and science communication skills during the semester and turn in two assignments before their final project report or poster. We welcome your support of the student’s efforts on these preliminary assignments, but your approval is only required for the final report/poster.

• **At the end of the fall semester, the student will submit a research report.** The report should include the background information on the area of research and the methods used, any data gathered, and analyses completed. The format of this report should follow that used in a scientific journal appropriate to your field. The title page of the report should include the title, student’s name, your name and signature, and the name of the journal article format used. The student will find the title page template and sample reports on Blackboard.

• **In the spring semester, the student must present a poster** at the Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium. The student will find instructions about making and printing the poster on Blackboard.

• You will give the student a grade based on the level to which s/he met expectations discussed at the beginning of the semester with respect to learning the field, working in the lab, and writing the report/poster.

• Please help the students deal with the inevitable experimental complications or failures but also help them develop organizational skills and resilience. Projects are commonly incomplete at the end of a semester; preliminary results and future directions should then be included in the report/poster.

• Periodic emails concerning mentoring undergraduate researchers will be sent to provide this information in a timely manner and to provide advice for making the experience rewarding for both student and mentor.

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