

Biology 385 – Student Options

Revised 12/08/03

The document explains a student's options when doing an internship. The course description for Biology 385 is in the college catalog.

1. The internship may be taken for variable credit from 0-4 hours.

If doing the internship as an elective, but not in fulfillment of the investigations requirement for the biology major, you may wish to register for less than 4 hours. This allows you to fit the number of credit hours into your course load without paying tuition for an overload. At the same time this allows the internship to appear on your college transcript. If you register for a 0 credit internship in the summer you will not have to pay summer tuition. As an alternative, if you do a summer internship you may also defer registration until fall or interim when the hours will become part of your normal course load.

2. The internship has requirements for the student, supervisor, and faculty coordinator

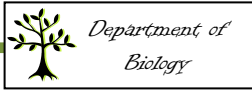
To receive credit for an internship you will need to (1) complete the form *Request to Enroll in Biology 385* and file it at the Registrar's Office; (2) keep a journal on your experience, (3) discuss the contents of the journal with the faculty coordinator, and (4) submit a written report on your internship or a subject related to the internship to your job supervisor and faculty coordinator. The report should be on an educational theme related to the internship and agreed upon by the student, supervisor, and faculty coordinator. The student should read, synthesize, and cite germane literature in scientific, trade, or technical journals. The report should explain a process, procedure, requirement, or issue related to the work of the internship. Your grade will be based on an assessment by your supervisor and evaluation of written materials by the faculty coordinator.

3. The internship may be taken in summer, fall, interim or summer.

We expect that most internships will be done as a full time job during the summer. You will then register for the internship during the fall semester and complete writing assignments and discussions with the faculty coordinator during that time. It will also be possible to do internships on a part time basis during the spring or fall semester and you would register for the desired number of credit hours during that semester. Opportunities for Biology internships will be located in the Grand Rapids area during the academic year and therefore will be more limited than summer opportunities. In many cases you will be paid for internships. The interim is usually too short of a time to do a complete internship. Registration for an internship during interim is more likely to occur when Biology 385 is used to fulfill the investigations requirement in the Biology major (see below).

4. Biology 385 can fulfill the requirement for an investigations course in the Biology major or Biotechnology minor.

An investigations course is required for the Biology major and this is normally completed by taking Biology 352, 354 or 399. Biology 385 will also meet the investigations requirement for the Biology major or Biotechnology minor if certain conditions are met and if the course is approved by the faculty coordinator and department chair. To meet the investigations requirement you must register for 4 credit hours. You must work at the internship site for at least 10 hours per week during the semester. Summer internships will normally be fulltime and are the preferred way of receiving investigations credit for Biology 385. To fulfill the investigations requirement an internship must have components that include



intellectual activities (searching and reading scientific literature, hypothesizing), professional interactions (attending seminars, lectures, research group meetings, discussions with the supervisor) and the actual work must have an investigative component. A journal and a final written report or research paper will be required. Upon completion of the internship the student will also present a poster or seminar to the Biology Department. In case the nature of the work is proprietary, precluding public presentation, a more extensive research paper will be required in lieu of the poster or seminar. The faculty internship coordinator will determine whether an internship meets the investigations course requirement and will work with the student and supervisor to design an internship that meets those requirements. In the case of a summer internship the student will register for Biology 385 in fall, interim or spring and complete writing and presentation requirements during that time.

Only one Biology 385, 390 or 399 may be completed in fulfillment of requirements for the Biology major.

The Biotechnology major requires completion of Biology 356. Biology 385 ordinarily cannot substitute for Biology 356. However, in unique cases, with approval of the director of the biotechnology program, Biology 385 might substitute for Biology 356.

The Biology Secondary Education major and minor require Biology 357. Biology 385 cannot substitute for Biology 357.