

BIO496: Biological Sciences Internship

Build real-world biology experience and earn credit

BIO496 lets you earn academic credit while working in a biology-related professional setting. You will build practical skills, explore career paths and connect classroom learning to real work under the guidance of professionals outside the university.

Course description

BIO496 gives you the chance to earn academic credit while gaining real experience in a biology-related workplace. You will work under the guidance of professionals outside the university and build practical skills you can carry into graduate school, health careers or the workforce.

Credits are variable (2 to 3). For each credit hour, you must complete at least **45 hours** at your internship site.

Who this course is for

This course is for Biological Sciences students who want hands-on experience, professional mentoring and a clearer sense of what they want to do after graduation. Internships can help you test a career path, strengthen your resume and build your network.

Pre-requisites

To enroll, you must meet all requirements below:

- Be a matriculated student and have completed 30 credits
- Complete BIO200 and BIO201 with a minimum grade of B
- Have a minimum institutional GPA of 2.5
- Receive permission from the Internship Coordinator

What you will learn (learning outcomes)

By the end of the internship, you will be able to:

- Apply skills and knowledge learned in a non-academic environment
- Acquire technical and professional skills
- Develop problem-solving and communication skills in a professional setting
- Gain real-world experience relevant to academic or career interests
- Explore and strengthen academic and career goals

How this fits the Biological Sciences program

BIO496 supports department program goals by helping you:

- Build depth within specialized areas

- Understand experimental design and methodology
- Develop approaches for integrating information
- Strengthen critical thinking and hypothesis building
- Build skills in scientific communication
- Engage with contemporary information
- Develop an appreciation of scientific values

Course requirements and assessment

Before you register and before your internship starts, you must have an approved Internship Learning Agreement on file with the Faculty Internship Coordinator.

Your achievement of course learning objectives will be assessed through:

- A midterm reflection report
- Internship site evaluations (midpoint and final) completed by your on-site supervisor
- A comprehensive final report with required supporting documents

Midterm reflection report

Your midterm report is a check-in that helps you track your progress and get support if needed. It should:

- Describe your internship progress and what you are learning
- Connect your experience to course learning objectives (especially objectives 1 through 3)
- Explain specific tasks you have been assigned and what you have learned so far
- Be emailed to the Faculty Internship Coordinator
- Include concerns or problems as soon as they occur, not only in the report

Internship agency evaluation

Near the midpoint of your internship and again at the end, the Internship Coordinator will send an evaluation form to your on-site supervisor. The evaluation is used to assess your performance and provide constructive feedback.

Final report

At the end of the internship, you will submit a comprehensive final report that reflects on what you did, what you learned and how the experience shaped your goals. Your final report should:

- Describe the organization where you completed your internship and what it does
- Share your impressions of the organization and work environment
- Summarize projects and major tasks you completed
- Describe major learning experiences, including specific skills and professional concepts
- Explain how the internship helped you build contacts that may support future education or employment
- Reflect on how UB prepared you for the internship and what could be improved

Supporting documents to submit with your final report

You must submit the following along with your final report:

- Student Statement of Hours Worked Form, completed, signed and dated by you and your site supervisor (week-by-week hours)
- Student Internship Learning Outcomes Form, showing which tasks and activities helped you meet the course learning objectives

Final reports and supporting documents must be submitted to the Internship Coordinator within one week after the end of the semester in which the internship was completed.

Grading policy

You will receive a letter grade based on:

- Verified completion of the required minimum hours
- Quality of course requirements (midterm report, final report and learning outcomes form), demonstrating achievement of course learning objectives
- Midterm and final evaluations submitted by your internship site supervisor