

BIO 4840 CAPSTONE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION BIO 4840

The Capstone provides students an opportunity to apply, integrate, and demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired during their undergraduate biology education. This 0 credit-hour course is designed to be taken in conjunction with a capstone experience through which the student will be able to demonstrate the core competencies of the general education program of the university. Capstone experiences may include designated course options or special projects in biology. Approval of the Capstone Coordinator is required before starting a capstone experience. Regardless of the option that is chosen, students will be required to submit a reflective writing piece about their capstone experience. Prerequisite(s): Junior or senior standing with at least 60 hours of coursework. Enrollment open to biology and biomedical majors only.

Learning Objectives

- To reflect upon how the Biology Major allows one to function as a knowledgeable citizen with an understanding of the role of scientists in society and offer ethical, well-reasoned arguments/solutions to societal concerns related to biology.
- To be able to communicate biological information clearly, concisely, logically, and accurately to the general public, both orally and in writing.

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

Transformative learning is a holistic process that places students at the center of their own active and reflective learning experiences. All students, during their biology capstone experience, should reflect upon their biology experiences during their undergraduate career as they relate to the six core areas of transformative learning: discipline knowledge; leadership; research; creative and scholarly activities; service learning and civic engagement; global and cultural competencies; and health and wellness.

Textbook: No required textbook unless the capstone experience is a Biology course that requires a text.

Class Format: No formal lectures unless the student's capstone experience is a course with lectures/labs or other. If the student is in a service learning capstone experience then the format of the experience will be determined when the community partner enters into the contract with the student.

Course Objectives: To provide an opportunity for students to reflect upon how the cumulative course work and experiences they have had as a biology major interact and mesh to prepare them for careers in biology related fields, to address the needs of humanity, and to address the tenets of UCO's transformative process:

1. Discipline Knowledge: Biology provides an introduction to life around and within us.
2. Leadership: Biology encourages us to work as guided by the core values of character, civility, and community in a cooperative manner, in group settings, to learn about stewardship of natural resources and ourselves.
3. Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities: Biology contributes helps us learn what scientists do and the scientific method.
4. Service Learning and Civic Engagement: In Biology teaches biological concepts related to the world and encourages collaboration with organizations and events to lend a hand in one's respective community to help make this a better and sustainable world.
5. Global and Cultural Competencies: Biology allows one to gain insight into the diversity of life in the world around us as well as some of the major conservation crises facing all of us. This prepares us to communicate effectively in a complex world, to function in diverse environments, to adapt to a changing global society, and to be a lifelong learner aware of the world.
6. Health and Wellness: with vitality & meaning. Biology introduces us to well-being by discussing diseases/problems that society face.

Attendance: Attendance is expected, but may vary according to the type of capstone experience. If it is one of the approved biology courses, then attendance will be based on requirements of the particular course. If it is service learning or other type of experience then the attendance policy will be determined by the Community Partner, the Health Professions Advisor and/or the Capstone Coordinator. Depending on the capstone experience attendance policy, attendance might or might not be a factor related to passing or failing.

Tardy: Do not be late to your capstone experience. Depending on the capstone experience, excessive tardiness might be cause for a failing grade.

Exams: The type, number, and dates of exams will vary according to the type of capstone experience a student is involved. To get a mark of Passing in BIO 4840, each student must successfully complete and pass their capstone experience (a particular biology course, health profession experience, community service, etc.). In some of these there will be exams which will be required by a course instructor or the Health Professions Advisor. How these exams are scheduled, administered, graded, etc. and what accommodations are allowed for missing an exam will be outlined in each course syllabi or through individual arrangements with the Health Profession Advisor. Also required to pass BIO 4840 is a required reflective writing piece. This will be administered by the Capstone Coordinator and graded by a trained team of biology professors. Valid reasons for missing the scheduled time for the reflective writing include a written doctor's excuse, a funeral, a court summons, military orders, etc. The capstone coordinator should be contacted if the exam is missed and by with the valid excuse. Going on a vacation is not usually a valid excuse.

Assignments: These will vary depending on the type of capstone experience and are addressed by course instructors, Health Professions Advisor, Community Partners, capstone coordinator, etc.

Background Check: If the student is involved in an internship or service learning capstone experience and it requires a background check, it is the student's responsibility to have this completed before beginning the experience. The student should initiate the process by contacting capstone coordinator. A copy of the background check will be provided to the Internship or Service Learning Community Partner and the Capstone Coordinator.

Special Needs: Students with disabilities & need special accommodations must contact Disability Support Services, (974-2516) in the NUC Rm 309. By end of first week, students should notify their professor if it relates to one of the approved capstone courses, the Health Profession Advisor if it is a professional school experience, the Community Partner if it is a service learning experience and the Capstone Coordinator (for all experiences) about approved accommodation needs.

Class Conduct: Class conduct expectations will vary depending on the type and format of the capstone experience a student is involved. Students will not be a disruptive entity in any capstone experience within which they are involved. If a student disrupts a capstone class or experience, they will ask them to leave. If you are harassed by a student or other individual in any capstone experience, then you should immediately notify your course instructor, the Health Professions Advisor and the Capstone Coordinator. Guidelines for the use of computers and cell phones during any capstone experience will be at the discretion of the course instructor, the Health Professions Advisor, the Community Partner and the Capstone Coordinator. No phones are allowed to be on during exams. Disruptive behaviors in any capstone experience can at the discretion of the course instructor, the Health Profession Advisor, the Capstone Coordinator, the Chairperson of the Biology Department or the Dean of the College be reported to the University Conduct Officer for appropriate action.

Academic Dishonesty: No tolerance is allowed for cheating on assigned work/exams in capstone-related courses, Health Professions- related activities or dishonest conduct during Community Service projects. If a student is dishonest, they will receive a zero (0) or fail the Capstone experience and receive no credit for BIO 4840. They will be reported to university administration for disciplinary actions.

****SEE UCO STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET at**

<https://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/student-info-sheet.pdf>