

Course Description

BSC 493 provides an opportunity for students to gain real-world experience in a scientific research program. A minimum of 45 hours must be completed for each credit hour earned (3 credits maximum in a given semester for one experience). The experience must be arranged by the student and approved by the Department of Biological Sciences in advance. To gain approval, students must submit the completed BSC 493 Contract, signed by their 493 research mentor and by their academic advisor. Research mentors are encouraged to require a research paper or poster presentation as part of the work expectations when appropriate. In addition to the work described in the contract, students will complete a series of reflective written assignments during and at the end of their 493 experience. Students can repeat BSC 493 for different or more advanced experiences, but there may be a limit on the number of credit hours that they can use toward graduation in their curriculum. Students must ensure that all aspects of the experience conform to the Code of Student Conduct.

Learning Outcomes

After completing BSC 493, students will be able to:

- describe the goal of their research project and their specific role(s) in that project
- describe the professional competencies they developed or deepened through their research experience
- explain how they applied their academic (in-class) experiences to their research experience
- describe the knowledge and skills they gained or further developed through their research experience
- describe how their research experience changed or strengthened their academic or career goals
- explain how their understanding of the nature and practice of science was impacted by their research experience

Grading

This course is offered on an S/U grading basis only. Grading will be based on:

- a series of reflective written assignments to be completed during and at the end of the experience
- a minimum of 45 hours of work for each credit hour
- an assessment completed by the research mentor at the end of the experience

What you need to do to be enrolled (in this order)

1. Consult with your advisor to select an appropriate experience
2. Arrange an experience and complete the BSC 493 Contract (Sections 1-4) in consultation with the research mentor with whom you will be working.
3. After you and your research mentor sign the contract (Section 5), take it to your academic advisor for their signature.

1

Name _____ ID# _____

Major _____ Advisor _____

Research Mentor _____ Mentor's email _____

Mentor's phone _____

Primary physical location of experience _____

*physical address

How many credit hours do you plan to earn? (choose one option)

45+ ☐ 1 credit (minimum 45 hours)

90+ ☐ 2 credits (minimum 90 hours)

135+ ☐ 3 credits (minimum 135 hours) (You can earn 3 credits maximum for any given experience.)

Start date _____ # of weeks _____ Average hrs per week _____

Semester you would like BSC 493 to appear on your transcript:

Fall / Spring / SS1 / SS2 (circle one) of _____ year
*numerical year

2

Briefly describe the proposed experience.

3

What do you hope to gain from this experience with regard to the five learning outcomes? (Refer to Guidelines on page 1 or to the BSC 493 syllabus.)

4

Requirements - This space can be used to be more specific about work expectations and/or to include any additional requirements (e.g., paper, presentation, attending a meeting). Total work expectation (in terms of hours) remains 45 hours per credit hour. Students must also complete a series of reflective written assignments posted on Moodle. Research mentors are encouraged to require a research paper or poster presentation as part of the work expectations as appropriate.

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Signatures-- all signatures required prior to DBS approval and enrollment in BSC 493.

**If mentor or advisor is unable to provide a physical or electronic signature, you may submit correspondence indicating approval.*

Student _____ Date _____

Mentor _____ Date _____

Signing indicates agreement to complete a brief online survey following the experience.

Academic Advisor _____ Date _____

Assign to this section of the degree audit _____

Departmental Approval _____ Date _____

This section is for DBS Student Support Services use only.

Completed contract received (date & initials) _____

Student added to **BSC 493** (date & initials) _____