

Course Description

BSC 494 provides an opportunity for students to gain experience with some aspect of teaching, including one or more of the following: course planning and preparation, leading or facilitating lessons or other educational activities, assessment in teaching, or education research. A minimum of 45 hours must be completed for each credit hour earned (3 credits maximum for a given 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 494 Contract, signed by their 494 supervisor and by their academic advisor. If the experience involves education research, the supervisor is 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 494 experience. Students can repeat BSC 494 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 494, students will be able to:

- describe the goal of the course or project with which they were involved and their specific role(s) in the 494 experience
- describe the professional competencies they developed or deepened through their 494 experience
- explain how they applied their academic (in-class) experiences to their 494 experience
- describe the knowledge and skills they gained or further developed through their 494 experience
- describe how their 494 experience changed or strengthened their academic or career goals
- explain how their understanding of teaching and/or learning was impacted by their 494 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 494 supervisor at the end of the experience

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

1. Consult with your advisor if you have questions about what sorts of experiences would be appropriate.
2. Arrange an experience and complete the BSC 494 Contract (Sections 1-4) in consultation with the supervisor with whom you will be working.
3. After you and your supervisor sign the contract (Section 5), take it to your academic advisor for their signature.

1

Name_____ID#_____

Major_____Advisor_____

Supervisor _____Supervisor's email _____

Supervisor'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 494 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 four learning outcomes? (Refer to Guidelines on page 1 or to the BSC 494 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 43 hours per credit hour. Students must also complete a series of reflective written assignments posted on Moodle. Supervisors are encouraged to require a research paper or presentation as part of the work expectations when appropriate.

5

Signatures-- all signatures required prior to DBS approval and enrollment in BSC 494.
**If supervisor or advisor is unable to provide a physical or electronic signature, you may submit correspondence indicating approval.*

Student

Date

Supervisor

Date

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 494** (date & initials) _____