

## Goal 4 – Biological Sciences

**Biol 100** and lab is designed for non-science and non-health related majors. Students intending to go into non-science and non-health related majors should take this course.

**Biol 101** and lab is rigorous and is intended for those majoring in the sciences, pre-medical fields, and health-related fields. Successful students are those with a solid academic background, ample time for study and tutoring, and a serious desire to do well. **The best preparation for this course is high school chemistry and the ability to enroll into math 108 or higher.** Without this background, the student will have difficulty, especially if taken as a first-semester freshman.

The Biology faculty have asked that we discuss the demanding nature of Biology 101 with students as they register and advise them about how to be successful in the course.

Recommendations:

1. If the student is planning to major in the biological sciences or pre-medical fields, encourage them to meet early with a faculty member in their discipline or the pre-health advisor.
2. Do not enroll a student into Biology 101 their first semester if they are under-prepared in math (i.e. math 015 or 025 placement) and if they have not had high school chemistry. Under-prepared, first semester students will need at least a semester of exposure to college level thinking and expectations before attempting Biology 101.
3. Some believe taking Biology 100 before Biology 101 may be a good idea for those who have been out of school for many years, or who are under-prepared for college. However, students should be aware that Biol 100 does not prepare students for Biol 101 content. If the student is intending to go into a major that requires Biology 101, be sure to discuss your reasons for suggesting Biol 100 first and inform them of the Biology 101 requirement that will follow. Make appropriate case notes.
4. Advise the student that scheduling adequate study time (6-9 hours a week for Biology lecture alone) is critical to their success.
5. Advise the student to take the course seriously the first time, especially if their intended major requires an A or B in the course, as there is discussion in the department of not allowing retakes if a C or better is earned.
6. Encourage students to attend the SI (Supplemental Instruction) sessions.
7. Whenever Goal 4 is discussed, continue to clearly distinguish between the course options.