

Form BIO 397-C: Experiential Learning Research Contract



Advisor Name _____ Student Name _____ Student ID _____

Credits (2, 4) _____ Quarter (AQ, WQ, SQ, SU) _____ Year _____

Student: List any Experiential Learning (EL) credit received prior to this course (refer to your DPR)

EL course name and number _____

No. of EL credits _____

Research Project

Advisor and student: Please work together to provide a response for every prompt below. Please review the Bio 397 course description (attached) prior to completing this form. (Max. 500 words)

1. Project Title (30 characters or less including spaces – appears on transcript)

2. Project Question to be explored – as guided by the research mentor and developed through readings in the relevant scientific literature

3. Goals of the Project – what will be accomplished during the quarter?

4. Project Activities – what will the student do in pursuing their project? These are the activities that are designed to fulfill the learning objectives.

5. Proposed outcomes – What will the final project involve? For example, research summary, preparation of a research presentation in poster or talk form, research manuscript or portion of a manuscript (this is expected to be a substantial product in the format agreed to with the faculty advisor).

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6. **Mentoring expectations:** Describe the proposed plan for mentoring, expectations and regularity of meetings. It is expected that the student and faculty advisor will meet weekly to discuss the student's progress and that these discussions will include reflection on the process of conducting research. The student will keep a detailed record of their research following scientific conventions. Formal or informal written updates during the quarter will be assigned by the instructor as appropriate.

7. **Safety and Ethics:** Describe the proposed safety and ethics training that will be completed. The relevant training will be determined by the faculty advisor in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the Office of Research Services. The faculty advisor and student will also discuss the responsibilities associated with conducting research according to established standards.

8. **Reflection** - Please provide a description of the prompts to be used, expected length of the reflection paper and due date for submission. The reflection paper should outline the skills, competencies, and insights they have gained through conducting a mentored research project. They will reflect on how the research experience relates to their understanding of previous coursework and to their future goals.

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| Signatures | Advisor_____ | Date_____ |
| | Student_____ | Date_____ |

Bio 397: Mentored Research in Biology

Department consent required, Credits 2-4, Maximum credit hours allowed: 4

Course Designation: Experiential Learning (Liberal Studies)

Course Description: This course provides the opportunity to work with a faculty mentor in Biology on an advanced research project. The faculty research mentor and student will work together to formulate a research question based on current biological knowledge and the scientific literature. They will develop hypotheses and then design and conduct a research study to test these hypotheses. Under faculty supervision, the student will conduct relevant analysis generated by the research and propose follow-up studies. Students will produce a written report of the results and may be provided with the opportunity to present their research at a professional conference. Relevant safety and ethical training will be provided based on the specific proposed research. Junior standing and consent of instructor required. In some cases, junior standing can be waived with consent of the instructor. In addition, the student will reflect on how the project activities and experiences have contributed to their personal growth as a scientist and their future career plans. Relevant safety and ethical training will be based on the specific proposed research.
