Submitted by: Andrew Dolby  
Date Prepared: 9/13/13

Department/Discipline and Course Number: For all biology (BIOL) courses that count in the biology major and that have BIOL 121, 125, 126, 132, 210, 260, 340, 341, and/or CHEM 111,112 as prerequisites.

Course Title: For all biology courses (BIOL) that that count in the biology major and that have BIOL 121, 125, 126, 132, 210, 260, 340, 341, and/or CHEM 111,112 as prerequisites.

Type of change (check all applicable):
Course Number* _____ Title_____ Credits_____ Description____ Prerequisites ___X___ Deletion____
*This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.

Effective Date: FALL Semester, Year ______________________________

Current Catalog Entry | Proposed Catalog Entry
---|---
| add “minimum grade of C-“
| See list of attached courses

JUSTIFICATION (including impact on majors, minors, concentrations, and general education courses within the University curriculum; attach additional pages if required)

According to the Office of the Registrar, more biology majors reach their fourth year of study with a major GPA below the required 2.0 than majors in any other discipline. These students must either repeat courses or take additional ones over subsequent semesters. Furthermore, students who struggle with prerequisite science courses early in their academic careers, but are permitted to continue with the biology major, are not allowed to repeat those prerequisites if they have already passed subsequent courses in the sequence. This constraint limits their ability to improve their academic records once they are well into the major. Finally, and most importantly, students who consistently earn unacceptable grades (D or F) in gateway science courses are most likely not equipped with a sufficient foundation to succeed in upper-level biology courses. Grades of D or below in prerequisite courses indicate that a given student has not mastered the knowledge and skills necessary to complete the biology major program. Instituting a C- minimum grade requirement for all prerequisites would compel marginal students to change majors while they still have a chance to improve their academic records and graduate within four years. Requiring minimum grades for prerequisite courses is a common practice among peer and other Virginia state-supported institutions (e.g. James Madison University, Virginia Commonwealth University, SUNY-Geneseo; University of Virginia requires a B- core average.).

TRANSITION PLAN (describe how will students who are in Catalogs where the course is required for a major be accommodated; attach additional pages if required)
All students who have already passed BIOL 121, 125, 126, 132, 210, 260, 340, 341, and/or CHEM 111,112 with grades of D+ or D would be allowed to take subsequent biology major courses with permission from the department to override the prerequisite requirement.

Approvals

Department Chair ___ Andrew Dolby ___________________________ Date: __9/13/13__________

College Curriculum Chair ____ Tim ODonnell ________________ Date: ____9-19-13_____

Expedited course changes are posted for a 10-class day comment period. If no comments are raised during that time, the proposal becomes final. All expedited proposals approved in this way will be noted on the UCC web site.

If comments are raised, the proposal may be reviewed by the UCC and then approved or it may be returned to the CCC for additional deliberation (as required).
Affected biology courses:

BIOL 210-Introduction to Ecology and Evolution
BIOL 231-Botany
BIOL 251-History of Biology
BIOL 260-The Research Process
BIOL 301-Anatomy of Chordates
BIOL 302-Developmental Biology
BIOL 311-Plant Ecology
BIOL 312-Plant Physiology
BIOL 321-Invertebrate Zoology
BIOL 322-Animal Ecology
BIOL 323-Entomology
BIOL 331-Histology
BIOL 334- Exercise Physiology
BIOL 340-Cellular Biology
BIOL 341-General Genetics
BIOL 363-Environmental Physiology
BIOL 364-Animal Physiology
BIOL 371-Microbiology
BIOL 372-Parasitology
BIOL 384-Human Anatomy
BIOL 385-Human Physiology
BIOL 391-Immunology
BIOL 401-Animal Behavior
BIOL 410-Neurobiology
BIOL 412-Endocrinology
BIOL 424-Tropical Ecology
BIOL 425-Vertebrate Zoology
BIOL 426-Biology of Fishes
BIOL 427-Ornithology
BIOL 428-Conservation Biology
BIOL 430-Molecular Biology of the Gene
BIOL 432-Virology
BIOL 434-Physiological Adaptations
BIOL 440-Biology of Cancer
BIOL 442-Evolution
BIOL 443-The Biology and Biochemistry of Proteins
BIOL 444-Bioinformatics
BIOL 451-Seminar
BIOL 471-Topics in Biology