**Biology 831 Research Sequence**

**WHAT ARE THE RESEARCH CREDITS--ARE THEY REQUIRED**?-- Students admitted Fall 2017 or later may take 6 elective hours of BIOL 831 (Students will only receive program credit if all 6 credits are completed satisfactorily). Every credit hour of research is a different portion of the project that must be completed in order. The following timeline is recommended:

Semester 1 - BIOL 831A (First Credit) Hypothesis and Connecting with Faculty Mentor

Semester 2 - BIOL 831B (Second Credit) Materials and Methods (take concurrently with BIOL 831C)

BIOL 831C (Third Credit) Annotated Bibliography (take concurrently with BIOL 831B)

Semester 3 - BIOL 831D (Fourth Credit) Data Collection (actual doing of your research project - enroll in this credit the term you will finish data collection)

Semester 4 - BIOL 831E (Fifth Credit) Statistical Analysis

BIOL 831F (Sixth Credit) Final Paper

**ARE THERE PREREQUISITES TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT?** - Yes, you must complete BIOL 848-Scientific Literacy and Communication, plus at least 6 hours of graduate Biology credits prior to taking any research credits. In addition, you must be matched up with a mentor prior to registering for Biol 831 credits.

**HOW DO I OBTAIN A FACULTY MENTOR FOR MY BIOL 831 RESEARCH PROJECT? -**

Student/Mentor Match-up: Students should **NOT** contact potential faculty mentors **until they have completed the prerequisites**. After completing prerequisites students may contact potential faculty mentors to discuss possible research topics.

Pairing a student with a faculty mentor will be conducted as follows:

1. Students must download and complete the Biol 831 Research Application Form, then submit the form to [msbiology@unk.edu](mailto:msbiology@unk.edu).
2. The application form includes the following steps:
   1. Student should view faculty profiles on the UNK Biology department webpage ([www.unk.edu/academics/biology/faculty](http://www.unk.edu/academics/biology/faculty)) to identify 1-3 potential faculty mentors, then rank the mentors 1 through 3 based on who you would most like to work with for your research project.
   2. Students must write a 150-200 word essay describing why you want to complete an independent research project, how it will help you achieve your career goals, and briefly (2-3 sentences) describe a proposed project idea for a topic of interest to you. For example, you may be interested in specific concepts such as evolution or physiology, or you may be interested in a specific group of organisms such as moose, microbes, or muskellunge. Please be as specific as you can with regard to potential topics of interest because this will help us pair you with an appropriate faculty mentor. Once a faculty member agrees to work with a student, then the faculty mentor will help guide student development of an independent research project.

1. Students will only be allowed into the research sequence if:
   1. Mentors are currently available to take on new students.
   2. Your research interests can be matched-up with a faculty mentor and/or the faculty mentor agrees to mentor your project.

**I HAVE TAKEN BIOL 848 + 6 HRS + AND A FACULTY MEMBER HAS AGREED TO BE MY MENTOR--WHAT HAPPENS NOW?** At this point you are able to begin taking credits. Once registration begins, contact the MS Biology Coordinators (Brian and Robyn) at [msbiology@unk.edu](mailto:msbiology@unk.edu) and let us know which section numbers you plan on taking. Include your student i.d. number in your email. We will then pass your information to the department chair, who will issue you a permit to enroll in this course. Once the permit is issued you can log-on to MyBlue and register for the class(es).

**I AM REALLY EXCITED AND CAN'T WAIT TO GET GOING?** That is great, and we are glad you are raring to go. However remember the research project is a process that you must work through. Get signed up for the course and start at the beginning of the semester just like any other course.

**I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS WHO SHOULD I TALK TO?** First contact should be to the coordinators, either Brian or Robyn at [msbiology@unk.edu](mailto:msbiology@unk.edu) or 308-865-1589. We are here to answer your questions.

**WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION AGAIN?** The MS Biology Coordinators, Brian/Robyn at [msbiology@unk.edu](mailto:msbiology@unk.edu)

**Biololgy 831 SYLLABUS:** [www.unk.edu/academics/msbio/Course\_Descriptions.php](http://www.unk.edu/academics/msbio/Course_Descriptions.php)