



Acadia Biology Department

Research Skills in Biology

BIOL 2173

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Biology students will work with a faculty member in the Biology Department as the primary supervisor. Masters students, post-doctoral fellows and adjunct professors may also serve as mentors. If you have an external supervisor (e.g., an adjunct professor), you are responsible for discussing skills development and workload in BIOL 2173 with both the primary and external supervisor. The primary supervisor will assign your final grade (described below).

For any questions please contact jennifer.kershaw@acadiau.ca (for fall term) or helene.dentremont@acadiau.ca (for the winter term).

Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide second year Biology students with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience by assisting in an ongoing research project. The course is intended to be flexible and engage students in a variety of research areas. Three to five research skills will be developed throughout the term and may include troubleshooting procedures, field work, data entry, processing samples, maintaining cultures, or others depending on the project. The research must be supervised by a member of the department. BIOL 2173 can be completed in either the fall or winter term (6h/ wk) and may be taken only once per student.

Space is limited for this course. To apply, **please complete the application form:** <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/eF8TatzHQQ> by **April 1st** of your first year of study and we will try to match you with a suitable supervisor, if one is available. We will accept applications after that date, but may not have any remaining project placements available, depending on the year.

Part 2: Grading Policy

Students are required to meet with their primary supervisor in the first week of the term to identify shared expectations for the course. This includes an introduction to the research project you will assist with, the specific research skills (three to five) that you will develop in the course, weekly schedule, etc. Keep a written outline of the expectations and make sure your supervisor(s) have a copy.

BIOL 2173 is graded pass/ fail.

Part 3: The Process

- **Complete the application form by April 1st** of your first year of study: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/eF8TatzHQQ>. Remember that space is limited.
- Your potential supervisor will contact you to set up an interview and to discuss the research project with you.
- Meet with your primary supervisor in the first week of classes to define shared expectations (see Part 2), and what you need to achieve in order to successfully complete the course (see Learning Outcomes form at the end of this document). **The student** will be responsible for submitting this initial Learning Outcomes plan to the term's coordinator by email by the second week of the term.
- The student and supervisor will meet at the end of term and complete the final components of the Learning Outcomes form. **The supervisor** be responsible for uploading a completed form to the class Teams site: [Completed Learning Outcome Forms](#)
- Students taking BIOL 2173 will have an opportunity to meet with the rest of the class twice per term (half-way, and in the last week of classes). This meeting will be with term's course coordinator and the Department Head and will allow you to briefly discuss the project you are involved with and the skills you are developing.
- Feel free to contact the course coordinators Jen Kershaw (fall term) jennifer.kershaw@acadiau.ca and H el ene d'Entremont (winter term) helene.dentremont@acadiau.ca, or the Department Head, at any time if you have questions or concerns about the course.

Part 4: University Policies

University policies are available in the Acadia University Academic Calendar or through the [Registrar's website](#).

Last Drop Day

Last day to drop a course and receive a "W". Please check the Acadia University [calendar dates](#).

Inform Your Instructor of Accommodations

Acadia University is dedicated to improving access to campus life for all students with disabilities. While we attempt to ensure that all courses are accessible, we recognize that there are barriers that need to be addressed on an individual basis. Students who require accommodations to complete coursework or otherwise fully participate in class should contact Accessible Learning Services directly as soon as possible.

Email: accessible.learning@acadiau.ca

<https://www2.acadiau.ca/student-life/accessiblelearning.html>

Commitment to Integrity

It is standard practice in Biology to check exams and assignments for cheating and plagiarism. Cheating in the class and/or lab, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Please read the appropriate sections of the current Acadia University Academic Calendar:

<https://registrar.acadiau.ca/AcademicCalendars.html>

Information on copy-write and course content from Acadia University is available through the Vaughan Memorial Library:

<http://libguides.acadiau.ca/c.php?g=433650&p=5027078>

The spoken and written course content (including the syllabus, handouts, lectures, presentations, labs, assignments, quizzes, tests, and exams) are the intellectual property of the instructor and may only be copied for personal use. Sharing these materials or uploading them where they may be accessed by others is a violation of copyright. If you wish to make audio, video, or photographic recordings in class, you must first obtain the consent of the instructor and of any other persons (e.g., guest speakers, other students) who may be captured in such recordings. The instructor's consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Use of artificial intelligence tools by students to assist with their learning is allowed only if: prior permission has been given by the course professor/instructor, and the student properly credits/cites how the AI technology was used in their work. AI must be used in an ethical and responsible manner as a positive learning tool. AI may not be used in ways that violate Acadia's Academic Integrity Policy. Students are reminded that plagiarism, or other forms of cheating, are both types of academic dishonesty.

BIOL 2173 Research Skills in Biology
Learning Outcomes

Student:	Faculty Supervisor:
Other Mentors/ Lab Members:	
Term/ Year:	

Name of research project:

Specific research skills to be developed (3-5 expected):

	<i>To be completed at the end of the term</i>	
Skill	Level of Proficiency*	Comments
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

* I (introduced), A (adequate) or P (proficient)

Contact times (6h/ wk):

Feedback: