**Early College Biology Course Guide 2021 Update**

**Overview:** The Dual Credit and Sponsored Dual Credit programs are a collaborative effort between BMCC, the Inter-Mountain Education Service District or North West Education Service District, and school districts in Eastern Oregon, Beaverton, and Aloha. The program creates additional opportunities for high school students to earn college credits and while still in high school. Thus the class will be equal in rigor to a college course. This means a larger amount of time spent outside of class, a larger volume of content, and a larger breadth of material on exams.

**Proficiency-Based:** Credit will be awarded based on the student’s understanding of the material. This proficiency in the material will be demonstrated through his/her scores on unit exams and a comprehensive final exam. Unit exams are built by the instructor, at their own discretion, and may consist of instructor written or publisher test bank questions in any format (multiple choice, true false, fill in the blank, essay, diagram, etc). *\*\*Students may have retest once per exam (not the final), so long as the retest contains original content. \*\**

**Suggested Unit Exam Design:** There are three levels of questions, roughly corresponding to easy, medium, and hard. Test questions will be divided up in the below format with “Synthesis/Evaluation” being the “hard” questions. Unit exams must be a minimum of 50 Questions

* + 35 Questions from “Knowledge/Comprehension”
  + 10 Questions from “Application/Analysis”
  + 5 Questions from “Synthesis/Evaluation”

The comprehensive final, is a standardized exit exam that will be applied to all classes across all campuses/schools. The comprehensive exam was built by the PLC, and exists in 3 versions. Each year, the version utilized will be announced by the PLC leader. The chapters in the final exam, can be moved/formatted to better suit the alignment of topic items within your school, additional questions can even be added to the final exam, but the exam *must be proctored by all participating instructors*. **This year BI101-103 will be using VERSION C. A final exam for BI124 will consist of the following, a minimum of 90 questions, with 10% dedicated to each of the topic areas.**

**Labs:**

BMCC requires 8 hands-on activities per term to fulfill the laboratory portion of the course. While this is not individually graded as part of the Early College experience, successful completion of laboratory activities and related journals or reports is required to receive credits.

**Other Requirements:** Instructors will participate in the Biology Professional Learning Community (PLC) to review and improve the course in terms of instruction, materials, labs, and exams. This involves submitting a syllabus for each course taught in the Canvas PLC shell, as well as curriculum artifacts including a unit exam, sample of teaching, and activity share.

**Alignment:** Schools who complete the full 101-103 sequence may move topics between individual courses so long as all are covered by the end of year. If you have questions, contact your PLC leader: Sascha McKeon.

**Course Guidelines:**

There will be two sets of credits awarded: high school and college. The high school grade will be assigned by journal checks (see next page for additional information) and a larger number of exams while the college grade will be computed only using scores from **three** **unit exams** and the **comprehensive final**. Students will register for the course at Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) in the term they will take the class’ final. If a student receives an “F” for the course, that grade will go on the college transcript. There is also the option to drop from the college course while still earning high school credit. Refer to the yearly schedule of dates/deadlines for more information.

**High school Grading Guidelines**

Open to your own assessment ideals. If students “fail” the exams for the College credit, but do well in other components of the course, their high school grade can and should be different.

**Sample Grading Rubric:**

Science can be broken down into two elements: knowledge and process. In this class, you will work to master both aspects. While there is a large body of scientific knowledge that is important to understand, this class will also focus on the scientific process of asking questions in a systematic way; then backing up conclusions with data, observations, and clearly reasoned arguments. The scope of this class will be guided by state and national standards as well as relevant local examples. To evaluate both my teaching and your progress you will be assessed using two types of assignments. These assignments will be weighted as follows: journals- 50% of the grade and tests- 50%.



| **Type of Work** | **Score** | **Weight** | **Weighted Score** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Journal | 97% | .50 | 48.5 |
| Tests | 86% | .50 | 43.0 |
|  | **Total** | 1.00 | 91.5 = **A** |

**Journals**:

Students will participate in a wide variety of activities, from student-directed laboratories to group projects. All of your work will be organized into a spiral-bound notebook we’ll call a “journal.” Journals will be kept throughout the year and will be graded at least every ten school days. During these activities you will practice and be assessed on conducting research, using observational skills, following safety protocols, analyzing data and defending conclusions. This assignment will be used to gauge your progress in the class and will be evaluated based on effort, completeness, and accuracy.

**Tests**:

Tests can be given regularly. These assessments will be given in a wide range of formats ranging from short answers and essays to demonstrations and projects. The ultimate goal of this course is for you to master the scientific knowledge and processes presented in class. Journals and in-class assignments help students get to that point, while tests illustrate their level of mastery. Completing every assignment is important. But so is doing well on tests.

**Absences/Late Work**:

If you miss an assignment or test it is your responsibility to make arrangements to complete this work. Not all labs can be done at a later date. In this case you and the teacher will determine an alternative assignment. There is very little room for late work in this class. All late assignments will be accepted for half credit unless you make prior arrangements.

\*\* Note: All of the above guidelines are subject to change and alternative arrangements can be made on a case-by-case basis.

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students at Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) have the right to various freedoms and protections, such as the right to: freedom of association, inquiry, expression, and learning in an educational environment that is free from harassment and discrimination of all types. Students in good standing at BMCC have the right to participate in institutional governance, co-curricular activities, student clubs, and other student life activities. Students are afforded the right to due process, to file a grievance, or to make a complaint. A student’s admission to the College obligates them to be personally responsible for their conduct and to comply with the policies and regulations of the College. [A complete list of those protections can be viewed here](https://catalog.bluecc.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=281).

**Academic/Student Support**

The Student Success Center (on Pendleton Campus) offers a variety of services for all BMCC students including, Group and Individual tutoring, and Academic Skills mentoring. These services are also provided to surrounding centers (Hermiston, Baker City, and Milton-Freewater). The Library (or front desk of smaller centers) also have reference textbooks on reserve and some content review sheets available for students.

All students are welcome to contact the Student Success Center for additional study tips and tutoring. The numbers are (541) 278-5739 and (541) 278-5954 respectively. On campus tutors are available at all extension centers and are free resources for students. Trio students are encouraged to call (541) 278-5853 for additional support. Click [here](http://catalog.bluecc.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=93#student-success-center) to be directed to Blue Mountain Community Colleges Student Success Policy. Click [here](http://www.bluecc.edu/enrollment-services/advising/student-success-center) for more information on the Student Success Center.

**Policy Statements:**

Blue Mountain Community College is committed to providing inclusive learning environments. Please notify us if there are aspects of the course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. For assistance with disability accommodations, please contact the Health and Wellness Center at 541-278-5965, TDD 541-278-2174 or email DisabilityServices@bluecc.edu.