



Independent Study Enrollment Request

Program in Biology // Undergraduate Program in Neuroscience

📍: 1140 Undergrad. Science Bldg. (USB)

🌐: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/biology> (/neurosci)

✉: lsa-biology-advising@umich.edu

☎: 734-763-7984

[SEE POLICIES Attached]

Student Name:					Major:				
UMID:					Unique Name:				
Project Title:					Cum. GPA:				
Term of Registration:					Credits (1-3): <small>(See credit policies on attached info. sheet.)</small>				
<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL 200	<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL 299	<input type="checkbox"/> EEB 300	<input type="checkbox"/> EEB 400	<input type="checkbox"/> MCDB 300	<input type="checkbox"/> MCDB 400	<input type="checkbox"/> MCDB 360	<input type="checkbox"/> MCDB 460	<input type="checkbox"/> MCDB 461	

Attach a description of your project (1-2 paragraphs).

You will need to discuss this thoroughly with your faculty sponsor(s) prior to completing this form.

Course	Prerequisites:
BIOLOGY 200	None
BIOLOGY 299	Interdisciplinary topic,* declared BHS Major, 8 or more BIO course credits and 3.0 or greater GPA
EEB or MCDB 300	8 or more BIO course credits and 3.0 or greater GPA
EEB or MCDB 400	12 or more BIO course credits, EEB/MCDB 300, and 3.0 or greater GPA
MCDB 360	PSYCH 230 or BIOLOGY 222 or BIOLOGY 225
MCDB 460	MCDB 300 or MCDB 360 or PSYCH 326 or PSYCH 331
MCDB 461	Will be submitting a neuroscience senior thesis (honors or non-honors) during the semester. Student should also be registered for MCDB 460 or Psychology 422 unless all lab work has already been completed before the start of the semester.

- I have met the required prerequisites for my requested course.
- My faculty sponsor is a research-active faculty member on the UM-Ann Arbor campus.
- I have read and understand the Program in Biology undergraduate research policies.

Student Signature

Date

FACULTY SPONSOR (PI):

I have read the Biology research policies and agree that the experience I will provide in my lab meets the stated expectations.

Sponsor Name:	Title / Dept.:
Signature:	Date:

CO-SPONSOR (EEB or MCDB research faculty member if mentor is out-of-unit):

I have read the student's research proposal, the Biology research policies, and agree to co-sponsor the project. I agree that the project is appropriate for the student's major and I will meet with the student to discuss the work as needed. I have also made arrangements with the sponsor as to how registration and grading will be handled.

Co-Sponsor Name:	Title / Dept.:
Signature:	Date:

*Approved BHS interdisciplinary (BHS-ID) research students who wish to take BIOLOGY 299 for work with faculty outside of EEB and MCDB must be supervised (co-sponsored) by a member of the BHS student research committee (composed of EEB/MCDB faculty). Contact lsa-biology-advising@umich.edu with questions.



Independent Study Policies

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What is Independent Research?

- Independent research is defined as a lab, field, or modeling project in which the student will have a say in the design, carrying out, and interpretation of experiments.
- It is expected that the student will meet regularly with his or her mentor, and will also gain exposure to the scientific literature of the field.
- It is recognized that many research projects will begin with a semester during which the student is mainly learning experimental techniques. *Experiences that are strictly technical are not eligible for independent research credit*, but it is appropriate for the student to receive credit for independent research during a term he or she is mainly learning techniques, as long as the project is structured in a way that will eventually lead to independence.
- Projects involving human subjects or patient records usually are *not appropriate* for an EEB/MCDB 300 or 400 election.

What is BIOLOGY 299?

- BIOLOGY 299 is intended only for Biology, Health, & Society (BHS) majors who want to pursue interdisciplinary research (i.e., on a theme incorporating research outside of traditional biology lab work).
- Students will need to conduct original research on an approved topic related to health and/or society and its impacts on or interactions with biology. Literature surveys or reviews are not eligible.
- Approved BHS interdisciplinary (BHS-ID) research students who work with faculty outside of EEB and MCDB will be supervised (co-sponsored) by the BHS student research committee (composed of EEB/MCDB faculty).
- BHS majors pursuing traditional biology research in a biology lab should follow the standard research path (i.e., BIOLOGY 200 and/or EEB/MCDB 300/400).

I'm a Neuroscience major, which course(s) should I elect?

- Students conducting independent research on topics in neuroscience with **approved neuroscience faculty**, should elect MCDB 360 or 460 [see neuro. faculty list in attachment].
- Students who are researching in MCDB labs on topics related to molecular, cellular, and/or developmental biology should register for the MCDB 300/400 track.
- Students researching in psychology labs should follow up with the department of Psychology to choose the appropriate courses.
- Any student completing a thesis in neuroscience in an MCDB lab should register for MCDB 461 during the term he/she is writing and submitting the thesis.

What if my Faculty Sponsor is not an EEB or MCDB faculty member?

- A student wishing to receive credit toward his or her major for research done under the direction of a faculty member *in another department or unit of the University* must obtain approval from a faculty member in the Department of EEB or MCDB, who agrees to serve as co-sponsor **before** beginning the project.
- A prospective co-sponsor will verify that the proposed research meets all of the criteria required of research carried out within the Department of EEB or MCDB.
- The faculty co-sponsor will review the research proposal and decide the appropriateness of the nature of the research. The co-sponsor will also confirm that the project is biological in nature, that it will help the student develop independence and is not simply a technical training exercise. (Note: Microbiology majors who elect to take MICRBIOL 399 do not need to find a co-sponsor, nor does a Neuroscience major who elects to take Psych independent study elections).
- *Research must be conducted on the U-M Ann Arbor Campus or its properties with a UM research-active faculty member.* (In rare instances, exceptions to this rule will be considered by the Bio. Committee.)

Can I take an undergraduate research course offered in a different department?

- If an external unit or department offers its own undergraduate research course, the student may elect it instead of EEB or MCDB 300 or 400. However, to be eligible for major credit, the project must be co-sponsored (as described above). If this option is chosen, the course may count as a cognate course for those majors that accept cognate courses as part of the major. (See individual major requirements to determine if a cognate course can count toward the major.)
- Note that, per LS&A policy: Candidates for an A.B., B.S., or B.G.S. degree must complete a minimum 100 credits of LSA courses, allowing 20 credits of non-LSA course work in the minimum 120 required for the degree. Non-LSA credits in excess of 20 will be included in the calculation of a student's GPA, but will not be counted toward the 120 credits needed for a Bachelor's degree in LSA.

Can I repeat the course?

Course	Max Credit Hours	Note that maximum of 3 credits will be applied toward the major (with the exception of the EEB major which allows 6)	<i>College of LS&A Policies:</i> A combined total of 30 credits of Experiential and Directed Reading/Independent Study courses may be counted in the 120 credits required for a degree. Experiential and Independent Study courses are excluded from area distribution plans. (https://lsa.umich.edu/lsa/academics/lsa-academic-policies/credit-limits.html)
BIOL 200	up to 6 credit hours	If a student elects to take more than the major-approved number of credits of independent research, the extra credits will count towards the student's general pool of 120 credits required to graduate from LS&A.	
BIOL 299	up to 12 credits		
EEB 300	up to 9 credits		
EEB 400	up to 9 credits		
MCDB 300	up to 9 credits		
MCDB 400	up to 9 credits		
MCDB 360	up to 9 credits		
MCDB 460	up to 9 credits		
MCDB 461	cannot be repeated		

How many credits will count toward my major?

Major	Max. Credits	Courses Eligible
Biology and Gen. Bio.	3	BIOLOGY 200 or EEB/MCDB 300 or 400
Biology, Health, & Society (BHS)	3	BIOLOGY 200, 299, or EEB/MCDB 300 or 400
Plant Biology	3	EEB/MCDB 300 or 400
CMB / MCDB	3	MCDB 400
Microbiology	3	EEB/MCDB 400, MICRBIOL 399, EPID 399, or INTMED 499 (2 nd term)
EEB	6	BIOLOGY 200, or EEB/MCDB 300 or 400
Neuroscience	3	MCDB 300, 360, 400, 460, 461, or appropriate PSYCH course

What major requirements will the experience fulfill?

Course Options	Credit Election	Major	Requirement
BIOLOGY 200	1-3	Biology, General Biology, EEB	Additional Elective
BIOLOGY 299	1-3	BHS	Additional Elective
EEB/MCDB 300 or 400	3	Gen. Bio. / BHS, Plant Biology	Lab
		Biology	Lab, Upper-Level Elective
		EEB	Lab, Research Experience
	1 or 2	Biology, Gen. Bio. / BHS, Plant Bio., EEB	Additional Elective
MCDB 400	3	CMB / MCDB	Adv. Lab or Adv. CMB
EEB/MCDB 400, MICRBIOL 399, EPID 399, or INTMED 499 (2 nd term)	3	Microbiology	Additional Elective
MCDB 300, 360, 400, 460 or PSYCH option	2-3*	Neuroscience	Lab

* A student who elects MCDB 300, 360, 400, or 460 has the option of taking 2 credits to fulfill the requirement; otherwise the student must take 3 credits from one of the approved PSYCH courses.

Can I take the course pass/fail?

All research courses that will be used as part of a major must be assigned letter grades.

Credit Guidelines:

Independent study courses may be elected for between one and three credits. Credits may be elected by following these general guidelines: 3-5 hours a week of serious academic work (e.g. reading, discussion with a faculty member, writing) or 4-5 hours of laboratory work per week generally earns one full semester hour credit.

Questions about your Lab or Research?

Contact the Program in Biology manager (lsa-biology-advising@umich.edu) at any time with questions or concerns about your research, including issues with your mentor, work hours, or research topics. Drop-in questions to the manager in 1149 USB are also welcome.