

SECTION 1: General Information on BIOL 698, Research in Biology

Purpose: BIOL 698 is the way in which students earn course credit for carrying out a research project under the direction of a research mentor, typically a K-State faculty member. However, faculty of other departments, research directors of governmental agencies, industries, and zoological parks are also acceptable, as long as the research is of a biological nature (see Off-Campus Research Projects, below).

Notes:

- Alternate course numbers: It is possible to enroll in a course outside the biology department for research credit, e.g., KIN 599 Independent Studies in Kinesiology, and have it substituted in the student's biology DARS report for BIOL 698 to count toward biology electives. Check with your advisor about this substitution prior to enrolling in the course.
- It is permissible for research work to be a paid position while simultaneously earning course credit.

Enrollment Is by Permission: The first step for students desiring BIOL 698 course credit is to find a mentor (faculty member, research director, etc.) who is willing to sponsor/direct a student research project. A partial list of possible K-State biological sciences research mentors is available upon request. The student and the mentor complete the form in Section 2 (below) and submit it.

Time Commitment Per Hour of Credit: A minimum of 45 hours of research project effort is expected (e.g., 3 hours a week on project over a 15-week semester) for each hour of credit for which the student is enrolled. That research effort can be at the lab bench or in the field and includes reading and writing needed for the project.

Course Title: It is possible to have a specific title for the research project (other than just Problems in Biology) appear on the transcript. The specific title, e.g. Res/Developmental Genetics, Res/Prairie Ecology, Res/DNA Replication, etc., can be submitted on this course permission form or by telling Nancy Thompson nancyt@ksu.edu during the first five weeks of the semester.

Grading: Typically, the course is taken for a letter grade, and must be taken for a letter grade if it is to be used to satisfy elective requirements of the major. At the end of the semester the research mentor should contact Nancy Thompson nancyt@ksu.edu with the grade to submit.

Multiple Semester Enrollment and use of BIOL 698 Credit: Students may (and do) enroll in BIOL 698 over multiple semesters as they continue with current projects or initiate new ones. Up to three credits of BIOL 698 (all lab credit) may be applied as elective credit for the Microbiology, Biology, and Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation, and Environmental Biology degrees. If over three credits of BIOL 698 are taken, the excess credits will count toward the 120 total hours needed to graduate (as unrestricted electives).

Off-Campus Research Projects: BIOL 695 Internship in Biology is an option for students wishing to pursue research or internships off-campus. Contact Dr. Eve McCulloch (emcculloch@ksu.edu; AK 116J) for more information.

SECTION 2: Permission Form and Student Researcher/Mentor Agreement

Complete information below and submit document to nancyt@ksu.edu. *A new form must be submitted each semester for which permission is requested.*

Semester seeking permission for: _____ Credits (1-8): _____

Student Name: _____ Student WID: _____

Research Mentor Name: _____ Mentor Dept.: _____

Research Mentor Email: _____

Research Title: _____
(Title is not required, but can be no more than 22 characters, including spaces.)

Expectations: The research mentor and student should complete this section together to provide clear expectations for this research experience. This can include approximate hours worked per week, learning goals, outcomes, etc. Having clear expectations protects both the student and the research mentor.