



AP BIOLOGY

Description

AP Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. The focus of the course is to help students develop a conceptual understanding of modern biology. Essential to this understanding are the following: a grasp of science as a process rather than an accumulation of facts; personal experience in scientific inquiry; recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns.

Special requirements

Prerequisites: Biology (A or B recommended) and Chemistry

Student costs/Materials to be supplied by students

Other information

AP Biology moves at an accelerated pace of approximately 3 chapters per week. The course has a strong laboratory component (25% of time) that compliments the lecture material and students are expected to keep a detailed lab notebook.

The course places an emphasis on writing to demonstrate biological knowledge.

Students are also expected to access the course website daily.

Students may receive college credit for this course by taking the Advanced Placement Examination and earning a score acceptable to their college. This acceptable score varies from school to school and department to department.

On average, our students score 25% higher than state and national averages on the AP exam.



An AP Biology student prepares a gel electrophoresis chamber during the DNA forensics lab.

Why take AP Bio @ Career Center?

TEACHERS

Proven experience:

With 23 years combined experience of **EXCLUSIVELY** teaching AP Biology and 30 years teaching high school science in North Carolina, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Mercer know what is expected in order for students to succeed at a high level on the College Board AP Biology Exam. Over the past five years, Career Center students have excelled on the AP Biology Exam scoring 23 percentage points higher than the national average (86% vs 63%) which puts our students in a position to earn at least 4 college biology credit hours. In addition, each year Mr. Bennett brings back direct knowledge and expertise from the National AP Biology program that benefits students in both classes.

Strength in numbers:

With an average annual enrollment of 280+ students, Career Center AP Biology students are able to collaborate and form effective study groups because Mr. Bennett and Mr. Mercer synchronize their delivery of the AP Biology curriculum. In addition, students have access to two AP Biology expert teachers for extra tutoring and review.

Preparation for college:

The rigorous curriculum designed by Mr. Bennett and Mr. Mercer aligns exactly with a 100-level college biology course for science majors. Students are provided exposure to college-level biology content, expectations, and pace of learning. Former students thrive at the college level and beyond.

Unique lab experiences:

As a building that is less than ten years old, the laboratory facilities at Career Center are top-notch. Our AP Biology lab classrooms are large, full of technology, and allow for a unique lab experience. Our classroom environment is group-based and highly collaborative. Labs include:

- *Bacterial gene transformation
- *DNA forensics (w/ PCR & gel electrophoresis)
- *Enzyme catalysis w/ spectrophotometry
- *Computer-based bioinformatics
- *Diffusion & particle transport
- *Genetics applications of Chi-square statistical analysis

Mr. Sean Bennett

- ➔ 17 years teaching experience (all in AP Biology)
- ➔ B.A. Biology; Washington & Jefferson College
- ➔ M.S. Biology; West Virginia University
- ➔ 7 years research laboratory experience
- ➔ 14 years experience with National AP Biology Program as AP Exam Reader, Table Leader, Question Leader

Mr. Andrew Mercer

- ➔ 13 years teaching experience (6 in AP Biology)
- ➔ B.S. Biology; UNC-Chapel Hill
- ➔ M.Ed. Science Education; Ohio State University



CONTACT US

We'd love to answer any questions that you have about AP Biology @ Career Center!

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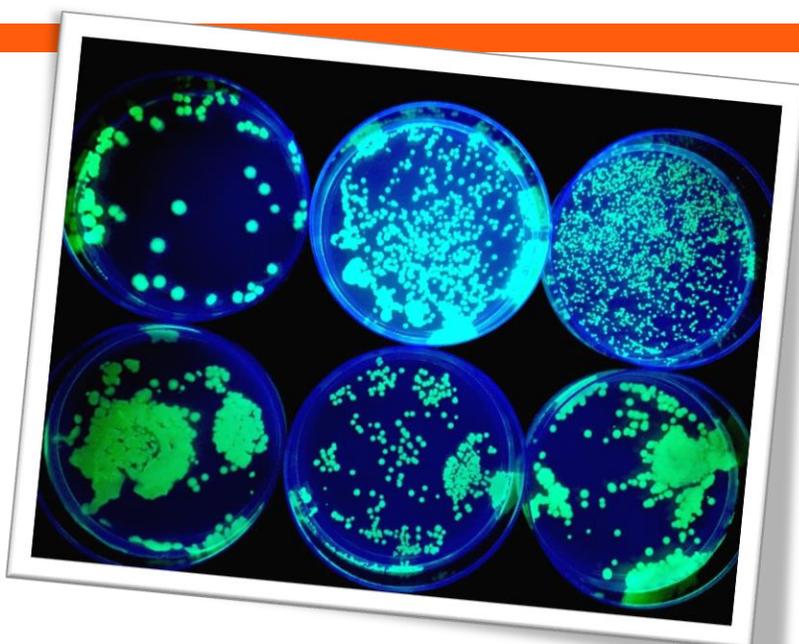


Photo above: AP Biology students make GMOs! Students transformed bacteria with a gene that allows the bacteria to glow under UV light.

Quotes from our former students:

"Taking AP Bio at Career Center is important. When I was an underclassman, I valued taking easy courses, but you soon realize how much you hate your time being wasted. AP Bio at CC will never waste your time because it is challenging and you're always learning."
 - **Ian Goodman Reynolds, '17**

"I've never been a science person but this class has really piqued my interest and made me want to put in the work to learn biology. Both teachers are great, so you really can't go wrong."
 - **Sarah Spangler Mount Tabor, '17**

"AP Bio is definitely my favorite class this year, and probably the most enjoyable science course I've ever taken. I love learning about how and why natural systems work the way they do, and AP Bio is completely focused on that. This is a class that reminds me that, despite all the pressures to get good grades and test scores, school can be fascinating and something to really look forward to."
 - **Vivian Mayers Reynolds, '17**

"AP Bio is a challenging, yet enjoyable class for anyone who is interested in furthering or expanding their knowledge past freshman biology. This course contains material that is applicable to other areas of school and life in general. I highly recommend taking this course at the Career Center!"
 - **Caroline Welch Reynolds, '17**

"AP Biology is the type of class where you just want to go home and tell your parents what you learned because it is that interesting. It is a class that really broadens your mind."
 - **Marah Freiberg West Forsyth, '17**

"AP Biology at Career Center definitely prepared me for undergraduate biology at Wake Forest"
 - **Ashley Gore West Forsyth, '08 Wake Forest, '12**

"AP Biology at Career Center taught me HOW to think and prepared me for college-level coursework in a manner few other high school classes did. Success in AP Bio meant understanding how different composite elements relate to one another to form the development of more complex systems."
 - **Matt Humphries West Forsyth, '10 UNC Chapel Hill, '14**

"I am literally sitting in my Evolution of Biological Systems class and I don't even have to pay attention because I remember all the stuff I learned from you about Darwinian Evolution, as well as our trip to the Galapagos...so in a nutshell AP Bio was the most important class I took, as I am majoring in Biology and Chemistry!!!"
 - **Cathy Delano Reagan, '17 Meredith, '21**

"AP Bio gave me my foundation for sciences in undergrad, PT school and now as a PT. I couldn't have been successful without learning the basics in AP Bio."
 - **MC Hamilton Mt. Tabor, '09 Wofford, '13**