

BIOC 290 – Laboratory Project

Procedures for Biochemistry Students Only

BIOC 290 is intended to provide an opportunity for undergraduate students to receive academic credit for supervised ***laboratory research projects*** conducted under the direction of a Biochemistry or MCB faculty member. Biochemistry majors who wish to enroll for BIOC 290 credit with Biochemistry or MCB faculty must submit the BIOC 290 Learning Agreement form to Room 419A RAL. BIOC 290 is used as a precursor for BIOC 492 (senior thesis research). The student will usually stay in the same lab for both 290 and 492.

NOTE: these procedures are for Biochemistry majors only. MCB majors use different forms and procedures for MCB 290 and submit their forms to MCB Office in Room 252 Davenport Hall.

Biochemistry majors desiring to enroll in BIOC 290 must first identify a Biochemistry or MCB faculty supervisor. For information on faculty research interests, students should refer to the Biochemistry website (<http://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/biochemistry/>, click faculty). **NOTE:** 290 projects must be biochemical in nature. The faculty member and student must then prepare and sign a detailed written BIOC 290 Learning Agreement form in which the learning outcomes, specific activities, and expectations of the student are delineated and the means of evaluation and credit to be awarded (15 hours per semester) are specified. Biochemistry major students cannot enroll in BIOC 290 without first presenting a completed and signed 290 Learning Agreement form to Jeff Goldberg, Coordinator of Student Academic Affairs, in room 419A RAL. This agreement must then be reviewed and approved by the Department. Students who have received departmental enrollment approval will be given the instructor's CRN in order to officially register for the course. If you plan to do research over the summer there is one more incentive to find a research lab. There are two Summer Scholarship Awards available (\$2000 and \$1500). You will need to be nominated by your research advisor.

Steps to follow:

1) Use the biochemistry website, (<http://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/biochemistry/>, click faculty) and MCB websites as the source of information to meet with Biochemistry or MCB faculty to identify an independent study supervisor and laboratory project.

Select only 2 or 3 potential laboratories after reading the information describing research projects. Do not send a blanket email to all biochemistry department faculty. **See sample email below.** Please let faculty to whom you have sent messages know if you decide that you no longer wish to meet with them.

2) Complete, with the help of your research supervisor, a detailed BIOC 290 Learning Agreement form. Forms submitted with incomplete information will be returned.

3) Submit your signed Learning Agreement form to room 419A RAL.

4) The Department will then authorize the student to add BIOC 290 (via CRN) to his/her schedule in UI Integrate Self-Service Registration.

Sample solicitation email to faculty (feel free to attach CV or resume. NOTE: Do not use the MCB 290 on-line profile):

Dear Professor Smith,

My name is Jon Jones and I am a sophomore in Biochemistry. I am looking for a lab and your research in "SSNMR" really interests me. My interests lie in gene expression and purification of proteins and feel I would match up well in your lab.

I'd like to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience with you or one of your grad students if that works better for you about joining your lab. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Jones

Other tips: If you are available for parts of breaks or summer, say so in the email. Faculty appreciate when students are available when there is minimal class intrusion. Also, contact potential professor (or Grad Student) 2 – 3 times. If still no response, move on to another set of professors.

Return completed form to room 419A RAL.