

## Proposal for Curriculum Change

**From:** Department of Biology

**Date:** March 19, 2010

**Proposal:** The Biology Department is requesting a change in the allocation of credits for the Human Health and Disease sequence; this sequence is currently structured as follows:

Biology 101 – Human Health and Disease I	4 credits
Biology 161 – Human Health and Disease I Laboratory	0 credits
Biology 101 – Human Health and Disease II	4 credits
Biology 161 – Human Health and Disease II Laboratory	0 credits

We are proposing that the allocation of credits be changed so that the lab portion will carry one credit with a corresponding reduction in the lecture course credit to three credits. The overall number of credits for each part of the course will remain four. The new structure will be:

Biology 101 – Human Health and Disease I	3 credits
Biology 161 – Human Health and Disease I Laboratory	1 credit
Biology 101 – Human Health and Disease II	3 credits
Biology 161 – Human Health and Disease II Laboratory	1 credit

**Rationale:** Currently, many of the students who take this sequence to satisfy the University's science requirement view the lab as not being an important or even necessary part of the course because it does not carry any academic credit; this is in spite of the statement that appears on the syllabus for Biology 101 and 102 that the lab counts for 25% of the grade. As a consequence, students occasionally do not register for the lab and others, who are registered for the lab, do not attend. Our feeling is that the awarding of academic credit for the lab and the assignment of a separate grade for the lab will motivate students to take this course more seriously and put more effort into it.