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To: [Cole, Susan](#)
Cc: [Ottesen, Jennifer](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Hilty, Michael](#); [Steele, Rachel](#)
Subject: Molecular Genetics 4581S
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 5:26:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Good evening,

On Wednesday, February 22nd, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for Molecular Genetics 4581S.

The Panel unanimously approved the request with three contingencies, three recommendations, and two comments:

- Comment: The Panel would like to express their enthusiasm for the course and the experience that the department is providing to students.
- **Contingency:** The Panel asks that the department amend/clarify the course pre-requisites (Course Request Form under “Prerequisites and Exclusions” and syllabus, pg. 2), with attention to the following issues:
 - On the syllabus (pg. 2, under “Prerequisites”), it states that the course is open to “all science and/or science education majors”. However, the Course Request form does not limit enrollment to students in certain majors. The Panel asks that the department alter either the Course Request Form or the syllabus so that the pre-requisite requirements are the same on both documents.
 - If the course is open to students in any major (see item c.i above,) then the course pre-requisite, as currently written, could be fulfilled by any upper-division course in any major (in addition to Biology 1113). The Panel recognizes that the department may have intended to say “an upper-division course in Molecular Genetics or another science department” rather than “an upper-division course in Molecular Genetics or another major”, but they ask that the department clarify their intent.
 - If the course is open only to students in science and/or science education majors, (see item c.i above,) then the course pre-requisites, as currently written, are unclear as to whether students need to take one of the specific courses listed (Molecular Genetics 4500; Molecular Genetics 4606; Microbiology 4000; Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology 4210; or Biochemistry 4511), or if any upper division course (3000 level or higher) in a science or science education major will meet this pre-requisite requirement (in addition to Biology 1113).
 - Depending on the department’s decision about items c.i, c.ii, and c.iii above, it may not be possible to electronically enforce the pre-requisites for the course. The Panel recommends consulting with the Office of the University Registrar if the department wishes to pursue electronic enforcement.
- **Contingency:** The Panel asks that the department obtain a concurrence from the College of Education and Human Ecology’s Department of Teaching and Learning. Additionally, they ask that the department inform their colleagues in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology and the Center for Life Sciences Education about the addition of this course to the university’s biological sciences curriculum, as it may count toward their students’ major/minor programs.
- **Contingency:** The Panel asks that the department include in the syllabus information

about the pre- and post-surveys that students will be required to fill out as a part of their reflection on their service-learning experience (Service Learning form item 5.a, 5.c, and 8.c).

- *Recommendation*: The Panel recommends that the description of the course that appears in the course catalog (Course Request Form under “General Information”) including the following statement (or similar) “Students will be required to participate in off-campus activities; some evening/weekend meetings may be required.”
- *Recommendation*: The Panel recommends providing more information to students about the type of transportation that will be provided to the elementary schools (Syllabus pg. 1).
- *Recommendation*: The Panel recommends that the department provide more information in the syllabus about grading; specifically, they recommend outlining how or why a student might earn a “U” in the course.
- Comment: Given the unique structure of the course and the unusual time commitments required of students, the Panel offers a friendly reminder to the department to make certain that students understand what is required of them prior to important enrollment and financial deadlines, such as the first, second, and fourth Fridays of the term; this will allow students to avoid undue hardship should they need to drop the course.

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via curriculum.osu.edu before a course can move forward in the approval process. *Recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the course is next taught. Comments require no action. I will return Molecular Genetics 4581S to the department queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the Panel’s requests.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the Panel, please feel free to contact Jennifer Ottesen (faculty Chair of the NMS Panel; cc’d on this e-mail), or me.

Best,
Rachel



Rachel Steele, MA

(Pronouns: she/her/hers / Honorific: Ms.)

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Indigenous peoples of this land.