

# BIO 500: MASTER'S THESIS

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## In Workflow

1. BIO Committee Chair (lindgren@csus.edu)
2. BIO Chair (lindgren@csus.edu)
3. NSM College Committee Chair (mikkel.jensen@csus.edu)
4. NSM Dean (datwyler@csus.edu)
5. Academic Services (catalog@csus.edu)
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7. Dean of Undergraduate (gardner@csus.edu)
8. Dean of Graduate (cnewsome@skymail.csus.edu)
9. Catalog Editor (catalog@csus.edu)
10. Registrar's Office (k.mcfarland@csus.edu)
11. PeopleSoft (PeopleSoft@csus.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Mon, 08 May 2023 21:00:58 GMT  
Jamie Kneitel (kneitel): Approved for BIO Committee Chair
2. Mon, 08 May 2023 21:02:22 GMT  
Jamie Kneitel (kneitel): Approved for BIO Chair
3. Thu, 07 Sep 2023 20:02:25 GMT  
Mikkel Jensen (mikkel.jensen): Approved for NSM College Committee Chair
4. Mon, 18 Sep 2023 20:55:34 GMT  
Shannon Datwyler (datwyler): Approved for NSM Dean

## History

1. May 1, 2023 by Jim Baxter (jbaxter)

Date Submitted: Mon, 08 May 2023 20:29:26 GMT

**Viewing: BIO 500 : Master's Thesis**

**Last approved: Mon, 01 May 2023 22:40:39 GMT**

**Last edit: Thu, 07 Sep 2023 20:02:08 GMT**

Changes proposed by: Jim Baxter (102010257)

**Contact(s):**

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Jim Baxter	jbaxter@csus.edu	916-278-4047

**Catalog Title:**

Master's Thesis

**Class Schedule Title:**

Master's Thesis

**Academic Group: (College)**

NSM - Natural Sciences & Mathematics

**Academic Organization: (Department)**

Biological Sciences

**Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?**

No

**Catalog Year Effective:**

Fall 2023 (2023/2024 Catalog)

**Subject Area: (prefix)**

BIO - Biological Sciences

**Catalog Number: (course number)**

500

**Course ID: (For administrative use only.)**

203849

**Units:**

4-6

Changes to a course's units impact any related programs. As a result, a corresponding change must also be submitted for those programs

**Is the only purpose of this change to update the term typically offered or the enforcement of existing prerequisites at registration?**

No

**In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?**

Fall, Spring

**Does this course require a room for its final exam?**

No, final exam does not require a room

**This course complies with the credit hour policy:**

Yes

**Justification for course proposal:**

This proposal changes Bio 500 from a 6 unit only course to a variable unit course that allows students to enroll in 4-6 units in accordance with the degree requirements of their catalog year.

The proposal aims to fix an unintended discrepancy in the number of units of Bio 500 required for students under different catalog years.

The newly approved MS/MA degrees under the current catalog require 6 units of Bio 500, whereas the MS/MA degrees under previous catalog years require 4 units.

For current graduate students admitted under previous catalog years, this situation means that they are not able to enroll in 4 units of Bio 500 as required under their catalog year.

Since the affected students were admitted under a previous catalog year, this proposal rectifies this discrepancy and allows current students to enroll in 4 units of Bio 500 instead of 6 units.

Note that this unit discrepancy is causing a financial burden for a number of our students admitted under a previous catalog year because (as a result of how they planned their curriculum) they are being forced to enroll in more than 6 units in order to fulfill additional degree requirements in the same semester as Bio 500.

**Course Description: (Not to exceed 80 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)**

Completion of a thesis approved for the Master's degree. Should be taken in final semester prior to the completion of all requirements for the degree.

**Are one or more field trips required with this course?**

No

**Fee Course?**

No

**Is this course designated as Service Learning?**

No

**Is this course designated as Curricular Community Engaged Learning?**

No

**Does this course require safety training?**

No

**Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?**

No

**Does this course have prerequisites?**

Yes

**Prerequisite:**

Advanced to candidacy and chair permission of his/her thesis committee.

**Prerequisites Enforced at Registration?**

No

**Does this course have corequisites?**

No

**Graded:**

Thesis in Progress

**Approval required for enrollment?**

Instructor Approval

**Course Component(s) and Classification(s):**

Thesis Research

**Thesis Research Classification**

S3/CS#25 - Practice Teaching/Workstudy/Thesis Project/Independent Study (S-factor=.5 WTU per student enrolled)

**Thesis Research Units**

4-6

**Is this a paired course?**

No

**Is this course crosslisted?**

No

**Can this course be repeated for credit?**

No

**Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?**

No

**Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies:**

List the Expected Learning Outcomes and their accompanying Assessment Strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers). Click the plus sign to add a new row.

	Expected Learning Outcome	Assessment Strategies
1	Communicate in writing the findings of an original research investigation in the biological sciences and their broader significance.	Assessment: Written thesis. Assessment tool: Thesis Rubric – Written Communication
2	Communicate orally the findings of an original research investigation in the biological sciences and their broader significance.	Assessment: Oral thesis seminar. Assessment tool: Thesis Rubric – Oral Communication.
3	Critically analyze and synthesize findings in the biological literature and original research results and integrate those findings into an appropriate theoretical and discipline-specific context.	Assessment: Written thesis. Assessment tool: Thesis Rubric – Critical Thinking/Analysis
4	Apply a global perspective to the interpretation of original research findings in the biological sciences.	Assessment: Written thesis. Assessment tool: Thesis Rubric – Global Perspectives
5	Conduct an original research investigation that makes a new contribution to the field of biological sciences.	Assessment: Written thesis. Assessment tool: Thesis Rubric – Research Investigation

**Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)**

Yes

**Has a corresponding Program Change been submitted to Workflow?**

No

**Identify the program(s) in which this course is required:**

**Programs:**

MS in Biological Sciences

**Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?**

No

**Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?**

No

**I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.**

I/we agree

## **University Learning Goals**

**Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:**

Disciplinary knowledge  
Communication  
Critical thinking/analysis  
Intercultural/Global perspectives  
Research (optional)

**Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?**

No

**Is this a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course?**

No

**Please attach any additional files not requested above:**

Conditional Approval with Signature - Bio500.pdf

Key: 525