

Memorandum
January 19, 2018

TO: Bioscience undergraduate majors chairs and advisors, Center Pre-Health Advising, Director SMPH and Med College of Wisconsin Admissions, CETEList, advisorlist, academic deans in CALS and L&S

FROM: John Doebley Genetics Chair, Kate O'Connor-Giles, Genetics Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair, Jeff Hardin Biocore Faculty Director, and Janet Batzli Biocore Associate Director

CC: Genetics & Genomics Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Patrick Masson, Martha Reck, Christopher (Kit) Tilmann, Katie Vermillion), Biocore Executive Committee (Irwin Goldman, Amy Moser, Evelyn Howell, Shelby O'Connor, Michelle Harris, Elaine Alarid, Paul Bethke, Isabelle Girard, Steve Johnson, Seth McGee)

RE: Biocore and Genetics 466, 467/468

In light of recent changes to the undergraduate Genetics & Genomics major requirements and creation of the new foundation course sequence for Genetics & Genomics majors (Genetics 467/ 468), there has been some confusion outside of Genetics among advisors, students, professional programs and other stakeholders regarding how genetics content in Biocore coursework compares with the revised version of Genetics 466 and the Genetics 467/468 sequence. This memo seeks to clarify corresponding and comparable coursework in the Biocore program as agreed upon by the Genetics Department Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the Biocore Executive Committee.

1. Undergraduate students who take Biocore should not take Genetics 466. The genetics content covered in Biocore 381/382 and 383/384 is similar to the content and depth of Genetics 466 and, therefore, redundant.
2. For Genetics & Genomics majors, the Biocore sequence cannot substitute for Genetics 466, 467 or 468. Biocore students who are Genetics & Genomics majors or change their major to Genetics & Genomics must take Genetics 467/468 to earn a Genetics & Genomics Degree. Their Biocore coursework will count towards 10 credits of introductory biology plus a subset 2 course for the Genetics major.

In addition, moving forward Biocore will dedicate an open seat for representation by a faculty member who is a geneticist on the Biocore Executive Committee to provide regular review of genetics curriculum taught by subject experts in Biocore (primarily in Biocore 381/382, 383/384 and 587). Currently two members of its Biocore Executive Committee are geneticists. The Biocore Program and Laboratory of Genetics will maintain strong lines of communication regarding the relationship between our two programs.

Further detailed questions about Biocore and Genetics 466, 467/468 courses content should be directed to either Janet Batzli (Biocore) or Martha Reck (Genetics).