

BIO 300 Service-Learning In Biology
1-credit hour

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Course Objective:

Students enrolled in BIO 300 will use their knowledge of biology and science to assist members of the Springfield community. The students will have the opportunity to learn how science knowledge can be useful outside of the college classroom setting. For example, students may serve in such places as the Springfield Public Schools, Ozarks Food Harvest, hospice centers, American National Fish & Wildlife Museum/Wonders of Wildlife (WOW), and with after-school programs such as those provided by the Salvation Army.

Grading:

Service-learning students will receive separate grades for the regular class (BIO 205, 215, 369) and for the one-credit hour service-learning class (BIO 300).

Each service-learning student must complete 40 hours of service by the end of the semester (approximately 3 to 4 hours per week for 10-14 weeks). Failure to complete the 40-hours will result in an automatic failure for the one-credit service-learning class (BIO 300).

The grade for the service-learning course (BIO 300) will be based on a weekly journal, interview with the course instructor and a final reflection paper. The journal will include a description of what you did at the service site after each session (in blue ink), a description of your reactions and feelings about what transpired during each session (in green ink), and an analysis of what occurred at each session based on what you have learned from your curriculum in biology (in red ink). (If you choose to record your journal on the computer use regular 12-point font for the description, italicized 12 point font for the reactions and underlined 12 point font for the analysis.) The journal must be turned into the instructor after the 5th week, the 10th week and upon completion of the 40 hours. You are required to have a scheduled interview with the course instructor after the 5th week of classes but before the 10th week of classes. The reflection paper (3 - 5 typed pages) must be a reflection of how this experience helped you see the role of science in society. The reflection paper must also list suggestions of other ways that a biology student could use their knowledge and talents in the community.

All service-learning students are required to attend a 2-hour orientation session sponsored by the CASL office at the beginning of the semester. These hours will count toward the 40 required for the course. At the end of the semester, all students will meet with the entire group of students to participate in a wrap-up and sharing session. Each student will give a five-minute presentation concerning the service-learning experience.

Note: All students who are working with the Springfield Public Schools system must have a current TB test.