Introductory Laboratory Courses in Biochemistry & Cell Biology

Our department offers three entry level laboratory courses. Each course is described briefly below. More information is available at the individual web sites.

Brief descriptions

Completion of either BIOC 111 or BIOC 112 qualifies students to take BIOC 211 and also counts as a biology lab for medical school applications. A student may receive credit for BIOC 111 or BIOC 112, but not for both courses.

**BIOC 111** (1 cr. hr.) introduces fundamental methods and standard laboratory practices in biosciences. Major objectives are to prepare students who have limited laboratory experience to move on to courses that require more independent learning, including BIOC 211, and to provide students with fundamental skills that are needed to conduct independent study in a research laboratory in biochemistry & cell biology. BIOC 111, if taken, should be taken in the first year.

**BIOC 112** (1 cr. hr.) explores science with a more open approach and involves guided participation in scientific research in collaboration with a research laboratory in BioSciences. It is restricted to freshmen interested in majoring in the natural sciences, targets students with diverse experiences and backgrounds, and requires instructor permission along with a prelab examination score on record. This course is recommended for students interested in the Biochemistry and Cell Biology major who have very limited practical laboratory experience.

**BIOC 211** (2 cr. hrs.) is an intermediate level laboratory course designed for biochemistry & cell biology majors. Students wishing to enroll in BIOC 211 must first take BIOC 111 or 112 or pass a pre-laboratory exam (see below). Biosciences majors should take BIOC 211 early in their careers, but not in the first semester at Rice.

Registration process

**NOTE:** We use the wait list option and do not sign special registration request forms, so please do not ask. All students must follow the instructions outlined below.

To take BIOC 111, 112, or 211 a student must have a pre-lab exam score on record. Eligible students may register for BIOC 111 or 211 on ESTHER in any semester. BIOC 112 requires a pre-lab score and instructor permission. If you have never taken our pre-lab exam then please follow the steps outlined in the next section. Note that there is a limited period of time during which you may sign up.

- If you have credit for BIOC 201 AND either credit for BIOC 111 or 112 OR a passing score on the pre-lab exam then you are free to register for BIOC 211 on ESTHER.
- You may choose to take BIOC 111 or 112 (with permission) as your entry level lab course even if you do have a passing score on the exam.
- If you pass the exam as a first semester student, we strongly recommend that you plan to register for BIOC 211 in the following semester (not in your first semester).
- If you have previously taken the pre-lab exam and did not pass, then you must successfully complete BIOC 111 or 112 before you may take BIOC 211.

Accessing the pre-lab exam

Students new to the process must complete a signup form (see steps 1 and 2 below). Students who signed up previously but postponed taking the exam may take the exam when it next becomes available. Such students remain on the eligibility list and need not re-submit a signup form even if they plan to take the exam in a later semester.

See the calendar below for the signup and exam windows. During the signup window we check for new signups and exam submissions each day, score the exams and return results as quickly as possible.

Registration calendar for the fall semester 2015

| The process is currently closed and will re-open at the beginning of fall orientation |
| Sunday Aug 16, 6 pm | Signup form and prelab exam become available |
| Friday Aug 21, 9 am | Last chance to sign up for remaining spots in BIOC 211, 112, or section 001 of BIOC 111 |
If you have not taken our pre-lab exam then please carry out the following steps.

**STEP 1:** Log into Owlspace, search under "joinable sites" for the BCB Teaching Lab Collaborative Site, and join. The site is joinable year round.

New to Owlspace? See here for how to find the signup form—

[Navigation instructions]

**STEP 2:** On the BCB Teaching Lab Collaborative Site complete and submit the BIOC Lab Signup Form under "Tests and Quizzes," then confirm that it is listed under Submitted Assessments in OWL-Space.

**STEP 3:** Allow us at least 24 hours to add your name to the eligibility list for taking the pre-lab exam, then check for it under Tests & Quizzes. Complete the exam promptly because the exam window closes soon after registration has ended. The exam is timed at one hour. Set aside one full hour during which you will be undisturbed, with a reliable internet connection and a calculator. Read all instructions carefully to ensure that you submit a valid set of answers.

**STEP 4:** After scoring your exam we will send the result to the Registrar and then notify you by email whether or not you passed (may take any course) or did not pass (must start with BIOC 111 or 112). As soon as the Registrar enters the result, you may sign up for a section of BIOC 111 on ESTHER or complete registration for BIOC 112 with instructor permission.

*Students completing the exam early in the "shopping period" will have results reported to the Registrar by the first day of registration. Students completing the exam later may experience a delay of a day or more before results are reported. The longer you wait the greater are the chances that the section or sections that you need are filled. Note that BIOC 112, section 001 of BIOC 111, and all sections of BIOC 211 start the first week of classes. BIOC 211 is usually filled by returning students. Students who are not registered for one of these sections by the morning of the first day of classes will have to wait a semester.*

**Important facts and answers to FAQs**

- Once you take the pre-laboratory exam you need not take it again; we keep the scores
- You must complete the survey form on the BCB Teaching Lab Collaborative Site if you have not signed up in a previous semester
- BIOC 111 and 211 are in great demand; if you web-drop then please notify us immediately, as there may be a wait-list
- On-time attendance is required in all three courses
- Labs start the first week of classes
- We are unable to offer makeup labs – if you anticipate any time conflicts please resolve them on your own
- We accept dual credit or transfer credit for BIOC 111
- We **may** offer transfer credit for BIOC 211 to students who took the equivalent course at another university before transferring to Rice
- We do not accept dual credit or Advanced Placement (AP) credit for BIOC 211
- All three courses are offered each semester and BIOC 211 is usually offered in summer

Contact: caprette@rice.edu
Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology [http://biochem.rice.edu/](http://biochem.rice.edu/)
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