University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Curriculum Proposal Form #4A

# **Change in an Existing Course**

Type of Action (check all that apply)

[ ]  Course Revision (*include course description & former and new syllabus)* [ ]  Grade Basis

[ ]  Contact Hour Change and or Credit Change [x]  Repeatability Change

[ ]  Diversity Option [x]  Other: Course Description & Prerequistite Changes

[ ]  General Education Option

 area:  **\***

\* Note: For the Gen Ed option, the proposal should address how this course relates to specific core courses, meets the goals of General Education in providing breadth, and incorporates scholarship in the appropriate field relating to women and gender.

**Effective Term**:

**Current Course Number** (*subject area and 3-digit course number*): Biology 498R

**Current Course Title**: Independent Study Undergraduate Research

**Sponsor(s)**: Ellen Davis

**Department(s):** Biological Sciences

**College(s):**

**List all programs that are affected by this change:**

**NA**

If programs are listed above, will this change affect the Catalog and Advising Reports for those programs? If so, have Form 2's been submitted for each of those programs?

(Form 2 is necessary to provide updates to the Catalog and Advising Reports)

[ ]  NA [ ]  Yes [ ]  They will be submitted in the future

Proposal Information: ([***Procedures for form #4A***](http://www.uww.edu/acadaff/ucc/Procedures_form4A.docx))

1. **Detailed explanation of changes** (use FROM/TO format)

***FROM:***

Course Description & repeatability: ~~Study of a selected topic or topics under the direction of a faculty member. One hour of discussion plus laboratory hours by arrangement with instructor~~. Repeatable.

Prerequisite change: Prereq: BIOLOGY 141 and BIOLOGY 142 and 2.75 GPA in BIOLOGY ~~and department consent.~~

***TO:***

Course Description& repeatability: **Students will complete and present an undergraduate research project under the direction of a faculty mentor. Projects may require more than one semester to complete.** Repeatable **for a maximum of 6 units in major and degree or 2 in the minor.**

Prerequisite change: BIOLOGY 141, BIOLOGY 142, and a 2.75 grade point average

in biology.

## Justification for action Prior to the advent of 498R courses across the university, a very wide range of projects fell under the 498 umbrella. The Biology department seeks to clarify the distinction between 498 and 498R, making sure students enroll in the more appropriate course. Traditionally, most of the projects students conducted in our department would fall under the new 498R, as they are usually conducting their own research projects. On the other hand, students may instead contribute to research by, for example helping to collect data, without conducting a project of their own, or they may conduct other non-research projects. Biology 498R should be used only for students conducting their own research projects. Also, we wanted to delete the requirement for department consent, as that custom has not been followed in years, if ever. Finally, we wanted to ensure that students do not use 498 or 498R credits for all of their elective credit within the major and minor.

1. **Syllabus/outline** (if course revision, include former syllabus and new syllabus)