

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Curriculum Proposal Form #4R
Change in or Deletion of an Existing Course

Type of Action (check all that apply)

- Add Cross-listing *
- Course Deletion
- Number Change
- (other)

- Pre-requisite Change
- Technological Literacy
- Title Change
- Writing Requirement

Effective Term: 2141 (Spring 2014)

Current Course Number (*subject area and 3-digit course number*): Biology 142

Cross-listing (*if applicable*):

New Course Number (*subject area and 3-digit course number*):

Cross-listing (*if applicable*):

***If adding a cross-listing, include the following:**

Required in the major:

Required in the minor:

Number of credits:

Lab hours/week:

Contact hours/week:

Repeatable

Current Course Title: Introductory Biology II

New Course Title:

25-Character Abbreviation (*if new title*):

Sponsor(s): Ellen Davis

Department(s): Biological Sciences

College(s): Letters and Sciences

List all programs that are affected by this change:

All emphases in biology

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 #4R](#))

I. **Detailed explanation of changes** (use FROM/TO format)
FROM: Prereq: BIOLOGY 141 with a grade of C or better.

TO: Prereq: BIOLOGY 141 and MATH 141 both with a grade of C or better.

II. **Justification for action**

Because Biology 142 currently has Biology 141 as a prereq, which in turn has Math 141 as a coreq, it has always been assumed that students would have taken Math 141 before taking Biology 142. However, it is possible for students to pass Biology 141 and either drop or fail Math 141, and then still take Biology 142. Biology 142 is more quantitative than Biology 141, however, and students with lower math skills seem to have even greater difficulty with Biology 142 than Biology 141. Based on data from 2001-2011, among students whose first UWW math course is Math 141, 50% pass Biology 141 with a C or better, whereas fewer than 40% pass Biology 142 with a C or better. Another problem occurs when students do pass Biology 142 but have not yet successfully passed Math 141; they no longer can enroll in the Math 141, as it is a coreq for Bio 141, which, again, is a prereq for Bio 142. We propose to add Math 141 as an explicit prereq for Biology 142 to help clarify and make more transparent the expectations that students complete Math 141 early in their academic career. This change will also be helpful for transfer students and their advisors; regardless of which introductory biology course (Bio 141 or 142) for which transfer students receive credit, it will be more obvious that they also need to complete Math 141.

Note that as Bio majors must also complete Math 152, which itself requires a C or better in Math 141, this proposed change should not affect demand for any math courses, but only the timing with which some students take them relative to when they take biology courses.