

**Biomedical Sciences Program  
Writing Intensive Course Registration Form**

**FORM MUST BE SENT FROM YOUR TAMU EMAIL TO THE INSTRUCTOR  
INSTRUCTOR: SEND COMPLETED FORM TO BIMS@TAMU.EDU**

*This form is only for Writing Intensive (W) credit. To register for a regular course section, you will need to complete a 285/485 or 291/491 registration form found at bims.tamu.edu.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
TAMU E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Classification: U3  U4  Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
College: \_\_\_\_\_ Professor Offering Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Information: Course:	Credits
-----------------------------	---------

This course can only be taken as a University Writing Intensive (W) course. Student must provide instructor with syllabus for course (see **sample syllabus on the following page**). The syllabus must be followed by the instructor of record and your instructor will assign your final grade. **\*BIMS and USVM majors may include no more than 9 hours of any combination of 285, 291, 485, 491 research (including 484 field experience) towards their degree.**

**A W directed studies or research course is designed to strengthen the student's scientific writing for completion of an undergraduate research project. Provide a brief summary of your ongoing research:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**By completing this form, you agree to be registered by our office for the course, acknowledge you have read the information below and, agree to all terms.**

- You may not register yourself!
- You are responsible for ALL fees and tuition incurred for adding this course.
- Course CANNOT be changed after the 4th class day.
- You must complete University Writing Requirements (To be discussed with research faculty member).
- Writing Course Forms must be submitted NO LATER than the end of Add/Drop week.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Professor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAMPLE SYLLABUS - WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE

**Course:** (W)

**Meeting time:** TBA

**Meeting location:** TBA (faculty research laboratory)

**Credit hours:** credits

**Instructor:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Faculty research advisor)

**Text:** Please meet with your research advisor to choose a journal appropriate to your discipline. This journal will be used as a model in writing assignments noted below. You should also obtain the Instructions to Authors for the journal chosen. These instructions typically appear on the journal's website.

Although no textbooks are required, books are available that can aid in this course. Among these books are the following:

- Gastel B, Day RA. *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper*. 8th ed. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016.
- Zeiger M. *Essentials of Writing Biomedical Research Papers*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000.
- *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. 10th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- *Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*. 8th ed. Reston, VA: Council of Science Editors, 2014.
- *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research*. 3rd ed. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2009.

You are encouraged to consult one or more of these books. Most of these books are available online through the Texas A&M library.

You can also access help on the University Writing Center website, as well as in person at the University Writing Center.

<http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/Hours-Locations>

<http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/Students/Writing-Speaking-Guides/Alphabetical-List-of-Guides>

<http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/Students/Student-Resources>

**General Description:** This course is meant to be a culmination of an undergraduate research project lasting at least two semesters. You should meet the following criteria to participate in this course:

- Biomedical Sciences student
- 2.5 overall TAMU GPA
- Junior/Senior classification
- Common Body of Knowledge courses completed

- Completed at least 3 hours of 285/485/291/491 credit with a grade of C/S or better or approval of instructor
- Preferred: Completed VIBS 310 (Biomedical Writing) or VIBS 311 (Biomedical Explorations through Narrative), or other “W” intensive course.

**Course objectives:**

- Through bench research, literature review, and discussion with your faculty research advisor you are to produce quality scientific writing. This writing will take a variety of forms, including a literature review, an abstract, and a research summary.
- In some cases, you may write an undergraduate thesis.
- You are highly encouraged to present during Student Research Week.
- This course qualifies as writing intensive; therefore drafting, receiving feedback, and revising are integral to it.

**Course Description from the Catalog:** Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in biomedical sciences.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Identify a unique scientific problem to research and present through preparing a poster, a scientific paper, or an undergraduate thesis.
- Complete research pertaining to your writing project and analyze data gathered during that research.
- Correlate research with classroom learning and coherently present results for peer review.

**Grade:** This course is graded on letter grade scale as given below. Percentages for each assignment are as follows:

- 2.5% each= 5% of grade: Completing **two** writing workshops/video presentations through the University Writing Center. Students should submit a list of at least three items learned from each of the two workshops. These are linked here: <http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/Students/Writing-Speaking-Guides> The forms for submitting the information are the last two pages of this syllabus.
- 25% of grade: Complete research pertaining to your writing project. Students should discuss these 25 points with the professor mentor to ensure expectations are met. If you are completing research in a wet lab, Laboratory Safety training should be completed and on file with your research mentor.
- 70% of grade: Complete five writing assignments (each including a rough draft and a final draft) as given below ○ A) Literature Review and

Scientific Hypothesis: 10% ○ B) Materials and Methods and Summary of Results: 10% ○ C) Draft of Research Conclusions/Discussion: 10% ○ D) Abstract: 10% E) Journal Article or Thesis: 30%

- You may also be asked to complete any additional requirements for the (Honors) Undergraduate Research Fellows Program or the Undergraduate Research Scholar Program through the Texas A&M University Office of Undergraduate Research. (Students participating in these programs will receive details from the respective offices.)

Note: Papers are due by 5 p.m. the Friday of the week listed. If they are not submitted by this time, they will lose 20 points for each weekday thereafter that they are late. For example, if a paper is due Friday, September 25, but you turn it in on Monday, September 28, the most you can earn is 80 points.

**\*\*To receive W credit for this course, you must pass the W component.**

### **Grading Scale:**

90-100%=A

80-89%=B

70-79%=C

60-69%=D

0-59%=F

### **Course Content/Writing Content**

1. Student is expected to be completing research or in the library for a minimum of 10 hours/week. **This will require students to complete all appropriate laboratory safety training courses and to sign a safety agreement form. Students should check with their professor mentor to accomplish this task.**
2. Student is expected to complete two writing seminars through the University Writing Center. Attendance should be verified using the attached form.
3. First writing assignment: Literature Review with Hypothesis Statement  
Papers, posters, conference presentations, and theses typically require an extensive review of the literature before writing. This first assignment should be a review of literature pertinent to your research project. It should encompass and build toward a purpose of study statement, including a background explanation for your research study. A strong scientific hypothesis should be included. This literature review should run at least 1000 words. Particular attention should be paid to proper citation. A reference list, in the format of the journal chosen as your course “text,” must be included. The reference list does not count in the 1000 words required for the review.

4. Second writing assignment: Materials and Methods and Summary of Results

All journal articles, posters and theses contain a detailed record of research methods. You should write a clear description of the procedures performed while completing your research. Research results are the heart of any original publication or presentation. The second assignment should include a summary of research results obtained in both this and previous semesters in the laboratory. The Materials and Methods will vary in length. The Summary of Results should run at least 600 words.

5. Third writing assignment: Draft of Research Conclusions/Discussion

This assignment should demonstrate research conclusions and integrate your findings with established knowledge detailed in the introduction/purpose of study. Discussions often include a few paragraphs on future directions your research may take. The conclusions/discussion should be 500-1000 words.

6. Fourth writing assignment: Abstract (This assignment will be due immediately after the third writing assignment.)

A 150-word abstract suitable for a journal publication or a poster proposal should be written. The abstract should follow the format used in the journal chosen as a model.

7. Fifth writing assignment: Journal article or thesis

The culminating paper should incorporate or draw on each of the first four writing assignments. It should include an Introduction, a Methods section, a Results section, a Discussion, a final reference list, and any other needed components, including a title. This assignment should be at least 2000 words (not including the reference list). Particular care should be given to scientific accuracy, proper citations, audience, and goal of the work.

**Policies:**

1. A university-excused absence is the **only** excuse acceptable for missing an assignment. For information regarding what constitutes an excused absence, please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07> . For absences related to illness, confirmation of a visit to a health care professional will be required. For other university-excused absences, please see your advisor to ascertain the documents needed to confirm your absence.
2. Late work is unacceptable unless the student has a university-excused absence.

3. **Academic Integrity Statements** AGGIE HONOR CODE

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

For additional information please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>

**Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated!** Any dishonesty will result in a zero for the paper (i.e. **Dishonesty includes plagiarism.**).

The Aggie Honor Code, definitions of academic dishonesty, and procedures for handling dishonesty cases may be found at <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/> **I recommend all students read this!**

4. The American with Disabilities Act Policy Statement is as follows (from the Dean of Faculties website):

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement** “The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services, 701 West Campus Blvd, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu> ”

\*\*The aforementioned policies are in compliance with and derived/copied from the TAMU Rules and Regulatory Compliance statements found in the policies and rules section of the TAMU website, as well as the website for the Aggie Honor System Office and the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost Office.

**Weekly schedule**

<b>Week 1</b>	a) Meet with advisor/mentor. b) Continue research	Discuss scope and plans for the writing projects for the semester.
<b>Week 2</b>	a) Do research for literature review and start writing. b) Continue research	Read/take notes on at least 5 or 6 papers for first writing assignment.

<b>Week 3</b>	a) Continue writing literature review. b) Continue research	Read additional papers (total 6 to 10 papers) for the first writing assignment.
<b>Week 4</b>	a) Submit literature review with reference list b) Continue research	First draft DUE by 5 p.m. Friday
<b>Week 5</b>	a) Attend seminar in writing by end of this week. b) Pick up feedback on literature review. c) Research	a) Provide proof of attendance at one writing seminar by 5 p.m. Friday. b) Final draft of literature review and reference list DUE 5p.m. Friday.
<b>Week 6</b>	a) Draft Materials and Methods/Summary of Results. b) Research	By Friday, you should have your Materials and Methods written, with a summary started.
<b>Week 7</b>	a) Pick up literature review and reference list. Continue writing on Materials and Methods/Summary of Results. b) Research	First Draft DUE by 5 p.m. Friday
<b>Week 8</b>	a) Begin drafting Research Conclusions/Discussion. b) Pick up feedback on Materials and Methods/Summary of Results. c) Research	Final Draft Materials and Methods/Summary of Results DUE by 5 p.m. Friday
<b>Week 9</b>	a) Finish drafting Research Conclusions/Discussion b) Pick up Final Draft of Materials and Methods/Summary of Results. c) Research	First Draft of Research Conclusions/Discussion DUE by 5 p.m. Friday
<b>Week 10</b>	a) Pick up feedback on Research Conclusions/Discussion. b) Begin drafting abstract. c) Research	Final Draft Research Conclusions/Discussion DUE by 5 p.m. Friday.
<b>Week 11</b>	a) Finish drafting abstract. b) Begin drafting Final Paper/Thesis c) Pick up Final Draft Research Conclusions/Discussion d) Research	a) First Draft of Abstract DUE by 5 p.m. Friday.

<b>Week 12</b>	<p>a) Attend second seminar in writing by the end of this week.</p> <p>b) Pick up First Draft comments on your Abstract</p> <p>c) Continue writing Final Paper/Thesis</p> <p>d) Research</p>	<p>a) Provide proof of attendance at second writing seminar by 5 p.m. Friday.</p> <p>b) Final Draft of Abstract DUE by 5 p.m. Friday</p> <p>c) Allow mentor to view an outline of your Final Paper/Thesis by 5 p.m. Friday.</p>
<b>Week 13</b>	<p>a) Continue working on final paper/thesis:  --Pick up feedback on outline of Final Paper/Thesis early in the week  --Produce polished First Draft of Final Paper/Thesis by Friday.</p> <p>b) Finish up all final experiments</p>	<p>First draft of Final Paper/Thesis DUE by 5 p.m. Friday</p>
<b>Week 14</b>	<p>a) Pick up feedback on First Draft of Final Paper/Thesis</p> <p>b) Finalize Paper/thesis.</p> <p>c) Finalize all experiments</p>	<p>DUE by 5 p.m. on last day of final examinations (If you are writing an undergraduate thesis, due dates must be adjusted to reflect the rules as set forth through the Honors Program or the Office of Undergraduate Research.)</p>



## WORKSHOP COMPLETION RECORD

\*Proof of attendance MUST state the name of the seminar, location of the seminar or website link, and the date/time of the workshop completion. At the bottom of the page, a short description of three items learned should be written.

\_\_\_\_\_ attended \_\_\_\_\_ on  
Name of Participant Name of Seminar

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
Date Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student  
By signing I acknowledge that I completed, in its entirety, the aforementioned workshop.  
Below is a summary of the workshop and at least three things I learned.

## WORKSHOP COMPLETION RECORD

\*Proof of attendance MUST state the name of the seminar, location of the seminar or website link, and the date/time of the workshop completion. At the bottom of the page, a short description of three items learned should be written.

\_\_\_\_\_ attended \_\_\_\_\_ on  
Name of Participant Name of Seminar

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
Date Time

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Student

By signing I acknowledge that I completed, in its entirety, the aforementioned workshop. Below is a summary of the workshop and at least three things I learned.