



Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
EBIO 4870: Independent Research
EBIO 2840/4840: Independent Study

Both Independent Research and Independent Study are courses offered each semester, granting students credit for investigations performed outside the usual classroom setting.

EBIO 4870 projects involve collection of original data by the student or testing of hypotheses based on already existing data, as well as library study of relevant literature that puts the research in its appropriate context. EBIO 2840/4840 projects need not involve the collection of original data, but instead might be based primarily or exclusively on library work. Receiving credit for EBIO 2840, 4840 or 4870 requires competing a written examination, writing a final paper, or composing a poster (which is presented at a department- or university-wide poster session).

The deadline for enrollment is the last drop/add day for a semester. Under no circumstances will an application be considered if it's submitted more than 4 weeks after the last drop/add date. Summer registrations must be completed before the first day of classes for that session in which the credit will be earned.

For every 25 hours of effort, students can be granted 1 hour of course credit (*i.e.*, 25-49 hours of work = 1 hour of course credit; 50-74 hours work = 2 hours of course credit, etc.). A student may take up to 6 credit hours per semester, and no more than 6 credit hours of may be applied towards the EBIO major. A maximum of 16 credit hours can be applied to the undergraduate degree.

The specific topic of an EBIO 2840, 4840 or 4870 project is chosen in consultation with a mentor who serves as the project's sponsor. Your mentor will supervise the project on campus or at a remote site. All work must be completed before the end of the semester, according to a schedule determined by you and your mentor. Faculty approved for mentoring include faculty in the EBIO department with appointments of Lecturer, Instructor, Senior Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor.

If you're concerned about a project's costs, you should contact CU's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, who provides financial support for deserving projects; information can be found online at <http://www.colorado.edu/suep/about-urop>. In some cases, a mentor may have funds available to support your project.

Completion of the attached Enrollment Request Form should be done in consultation with your mentor. To begin, contact the faculty member you wish to supervise your project, to see if they are able to mentor you. A list of faculty research interests and current studies is available in the EBIO office (Ramaley N122). Faculty may regard certain courses and/or prerequisites as requirements before electing to sponsor your project. Collaborations with faculty outside of the department are possible, but should involve an EBIO faculty as signatory co-mentor.

INDEPENDENT STUDY/INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

ENROLLMENT REQUEST FORM

All sections must be completed. Only after all signatures have been obtained may you be enrolled. After all signatures have been obtained, take the completed form to the EBIO Department Office (Ramaley N122).

Student Name: _____ ID# _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____

Enrollment requested: EBIO 2840 EBIO 4840 EBIO 4870 Credit hours: _____

Title of project: _____

Describe your project. What are its purpose(s) and objective(s)? Use an additional page if needed.

What question or hypothesis will you be addressing?

What are the measurements or activities that will allow you to successfully complete your project?

What courses have you've taken and/or experiences have you had that have prepared your to undertake this project?

The following sections can only be completed by your mentor.

What is the project's schedule? Use an additional page if needed.

By what criteria will the student's performance be evaluated/graded?

What will be the student's final product (written report, poster, etc.)? When is its due date?

How will the student's final product be disseminated?

POLICIES AND SIGNATURES

Use of Animals and/or Human Subjects. Research with animals or animal tissues must be in compliance with NIH/USDA Guidelines and have approval of the CU Animal Care Committee. Any activity that involves human subjects with or without their consent must be in compliance with the guidelines of the CU Human Research Committee. A student is responsible for obtaining the sponsor's assurance that use of animal and human subjects has been reviewed and approved, or to initiate a proposal for such use.

Use of Animal and/or Plant Facilities. Space for animals or plants is limited and a student must secure approval of care facilities prior to submitting this proposal.

Generation and Disposal of Hazardous Waste. Guidelines for generation and disposal of hazardous waste must be followed.

Restrictions

Independent research/independent study credits may not serve as substitutes for a formal course. A student may not be granted credits in EBIO 2840, 4840 or 4870 for:

- Service or work as a research, laboratory, or teaching assistant
- Internship-type experiences
- College List or Core Requirements
- Prior work completed here or elsewhere
- Extra work performed in association with a regular class unless arranged and approved for Independent Study/Research prior to start of project
- Volunteer work or work done in business

By signing this document the student and faculty sponsor have discussed and outlined the project, identified expected workloads and have agreed upon how this activity will be graded. By signing this form, both the student and faculty sponsor certify any use of animals, animal tissues, or human subjects described in this proposal have been reviewed or is pending review by the appropriate regulatory body and meets all EBIO and University guidelines and that all permits or permissions required have been approved or are pending. In the event of denial of any pending applications, this contract will be considered void unless modified with EBIO approval. By signing this form, both the student and faculty member also certify that the generation of any hazardous waste will be monitored and that the disposal of hazardous waste will be in accordance with University guidelines.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mentor Signature: _____ Date: _____

DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____