

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
(original and 1 copy)

Title of Proposal: BIOL – Amend the prerequisites for the 400-level vertebrate zoology courses

Check One: Full Proposal Information Item

Effective Date for Curricular Offering: August 2009

FROM: Thomas P. Wilson, Biological and Environmental Sciences, 226 Holt Hall, 425-4713, Thomas-wilson@utc.edu; Timothy Gaudin, Biological and Environmental Sciences, 219 Holt Hall, 425-4163, Timothy-gaudin@utc.edu (proposal originator: include spokesperson's name, office number, telephone, e-mail)

Does this require new resources from the originating department or other department?
No

Faculty of the originating department approved this proposal on 11/7/08 (date), by a vote of 16 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstentions; 1 eligible voting members absent.

The following have examined this proposal:

Dept Head/Director: John C. Tucker John C. Tucker ✓
11/13/08 Signature Approve neutral disapprove*

College Curriculum Committee Date: _____ Vote: _____ Signature of Chair _____

Spokespersons for Affected Departments:

(name, department, date) Signature Approve neutral disapprove*

Dean/Director: H. Burkhead ✓
(name, department, date) Signature Approve neutral disapprove*

University Registrar: Linda Orth _____
Signature Comments _____

Provost: Phil Oldham _____
Signature Approve neutral disapprove*

*Those who disapprove may attach an explanation.

ACTIONS on this proposal:	Curriculum Committee	Faculty Senate
Date the proposal was considered	_____	_____
Vote of the body:	_____	_____
Accepted as information item (indicate date)	_____	_____
Approved as submitted (indicate date)	_____	_____
Approved with amendments (amendments indicated and transmitted to all signatories above, date):	_____	_____
Signature of Chair:	_____	_____

To: Curriculum Committee Chair
From: Thomas P. Wilson and Timothy Gaudin, Biological and Environmental Sciences Department
Re: Changes in the Prerequisites for BIOL 456, 457, and 458
Date: November 10, 2008

The Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences requests to change the prerequisites for Biology 456 (Ichthyology), 457 (Mammalogy), and 458 (Ornithology).

A1) Current Catalog Descriptions:

456 Ichthyology (4)- The biology of fishes, with an emphasis on the functional morphology, systematics, evolution, diversity, distribution, and ecology of fishes. Laboratory includes identification of the diversity of regional fish faunas, as well as laboratory dissections and field trips. Spring or fall semester. Lecture 3 hours, laboratory 3 hours. Prerequisites: Biology 313 (or equivalent courses) or approval of the instructor. Laboratory/studio course fee will be assessed.

457 Mammalogy (4)- The biology of mammals, with an emphasis on diversity, distribution, systematics, structural evolution and paleontology, and functional morphology. Laboratory includes identification of regional diversity, as well as dissections and field trips. Fall or spring semester alternate years. Lecture 3 hours, laboratory 3 hours. Prerequisites: Biology 313 (or equivalent courses) or approval of the instructor. Laboratory/studio course fee will be assessed.

458 Ornithology (4)- The biology of birds with an emphasis on avian evolution, taxonomy, anatomy and physiology, ecology, behavior and distribution. Laboratory includes identification of regional avifauna, as well as field trips and dissections. Spring semester. Lecture 3 hours, laboratory 3 hours. Prerequisites: Biology 313 or approval of the instructor. Laboratory/studio course fee will be assessed.

A2) Proposed Catalog Descriptions:

456 Ichthyology (4)- The biology of fishes, with an emphasis on the functional morphology, systematics, evolution, diversity, distribution, and ecology of fishes. Laboratory includes identification of the diversity of regional fish faunas, as well as laboratory dissections and field trips. Spring or fall semester. Lecture 3 hours, laboratory 3 hours. Prerequisites: Biology 122 with a minimum grade of C, and at least one 300-400 level course from the Biology or Environmental Science curriculum, and Junior standing. Laboratory/studio course fee will be assessed.

457 Mammalogy (4)- The biology of mammals, with an emphasis on diversity, distribution, systematics, structural evolution and paleontology, and functional morphology. Laboratory includes identification of regional diversity, as well as dissections and field trips. Fall or spring semester alternate years. Lecture 3 hours, laboratory 3 hours. Prerequisites: Biology 122 with a minimum grade of C, and at least one 300-400 level course from the Biology or Environmental Science curriculum, and Junior standing. Laboratory/studio course fee will be assessed.

458 Ornithology (4)- The biology of avian reptiles with an emphasis on evolution, taxonomy, anatomy and physiology, ecology, behavior and distribution. Laboratory includes identification of regional avifauna, as well as field trips and dissections. Spring semester. Lecture 3 hours, laboratory 3 hours. Prerequisites: Biology 122 with a minimum grade of C, and at least one 300-400 level course from the Biology or Environmental Science curriculum, and Junior standing. Laboratory/studio course fee will be assessed.

B) Objectives:

See respective catalog descriptions.

E) Rationale:

In our upper level vertebrate zoology courses (i.e., Biology 456, 457, and 458), students are introduced to broad based concepts in behavior, ecology, evolution and systematics. The same holds true for the laboratory portions of these courses. Specifically, students are responsible for learning the diversity, distribution, and life-histories of the representative groups (i.e., fish, mammals and birds). These courses are intended for biology majors seeking a 400-level course. We are formally requesting the prerequisites be changed to make all upper level zoology courses consistent, and allow flexible enrollment (see separate BIOL 340-Herpetology proposal). Currently, the prerequisite is BIOL 313 (Comparative Zoology) which is a logical choice, but the course is offered only once every 2 years and has an enrollment limited to 24 seats. This synergistic effect functionally prohibits most of our upper-level students from freely taking these courses. Therefore, the current instructors (i.e., Schorr, Gaudin and Aborn) do not require or enforce the BIOL 313 prerequisite. The new prerequisites would have all students taking these courses to have junior standing and at least one 300-400 level course from the Biology or Environmental Science curriculum. This is done in order to ensure that they already have some experience with upper-level courses, and the junior standing essentially ensures that they will be better equipped to deal with the rigors of Biology 456, 457, or 458 while promoting flexible scheduling.

F) Consequences of the Proposal:

A change to the prerequisites will not impact course enrollment, so no additional sections, space, or staff will be required. These courses are taught in alternating semesters and years hence students and advisors must plan accordingly to ensure that the course of interest can be taken during the student's junior or senior year. The current instructors of Herpetology (currently Biology 340), Ichthyology (456), Mammalogy (457), and Ornithology (458) have agreed upon and recommend the changes as described above.

G) Impact on Other Departments:

The change should have no effect on other departments.

H) N/A