

## **Designation of Courses to be Considered for Inclusion in Life Sciences Breadth Category (BLS)**

### Content/Subject Matter

Life Sciences courses involve the study of living organisms or processes supporting and specific to organisms; Life Sciences courses may also examine interactions among organisms and between organisms and their environment. Life Sciences courses generally address one or more topics related to human health and biology, biochemistry, evolution, environmental science, biogeography, ecology and ecosystems and the biosphere, as well as other, related topics. Human biology, when considered, is typically examined in a comparative context in which humans are viewed within a broader biological scheme.

### Methodology

Life Sciences courses focus on knowledge and concepts gained and understood using scientific, hypothetico-deductive, evidence-based approaches. Information is generally at least implicitly organized and presented as being the result of a series of hierarchical, problem-solving exercises, in which the central roles of observation and data evaluation are emphasized in the testing of alternative hypotheses. Students are exposed to the most current understanding of life science phenomena as well as to the dynamic nature of life science knowledge.

### Course Goals

- familiarity with a subset of biological entities or processes;
- an understanding of the value of hypothetico-deductive approaches to gaining knowledge and experience in problem-solving using observation and objective analysis;
- an appreciation of the diversity of organisms, and their interrelationships;
- an understanding of how humans affect and are affected by living organisms and ecosystems.