

Subject: Fw: BCC Biotech updates

Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 3:09:56 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Barbara Des Rochers

To: Nancy Cayton

Nancy - see Leslie's comment below.

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: Barbara Des Rochers <bsdesroch@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 2:32 PM

To: Leslie Blackie

Subject: Re: BCC Biotech updates

Thanks, Leslie!

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: Leslie Blackie <lblackie@peralta.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 2:28 PM

To: bsdesroch@hotmail.com; Gisele Giorgi

Cc: lolani Sodhy-Gereben

Subject: Re: BCC Biotech updates

Barbara these look great. Also a lot of work to redo your classes and programs.

Thanks for the consultation!

Leslie Blackie

Laney Biomanufacturing Program Director

From: Barbara Des Rochers <bsdesroch@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 6:56 PM

To: Leslie Blackie; Gisele Giorgi

Subject: BCC Biotech updates

Hi Leslie and Gisele,

I have spent the better part of this semester updating the course content of our biotech classes and tweaking our programs - all about 10+ years overdue! Our curriculum committee just approved

everything today so the new and improved version will go to CIPD early December. I have attached a quick summary of the programs for you and the details of each course can be accessed in Curricunet for your perusal. Below, I have included some highlights and reasons for changes.

1. We cannot have certificates of proficiency anymore (I guess we can for non credit classes), so we now have 2 certificates of achievement and the A.S. degree - none of which look too different from what they were before. However, because certificates of achievement must be at least 16 units I had to add a class to the first certificate (Sci Lit). And, because you cannot distinguish between certificates and advanced certificates in Curricunet, I had to give "job names" to each certificate. One of our counselors did some research and came up with the job titles from some district down south - I guess they are okay.
2. I changed our Sci Lit class to be 3 units to make it more transferable and have worked hard to write it in a way that will make it acceptable as a "critical thinking" class. This re-write took the longest and to do and really was the most difficult. I had UC, CSU, Engl 5 and Comm 5 course outlines in front of me and plenty of advice from the folks who teach critical thinking. Also, to be considered for critical thinking, the class has to have English 1A as a prerequisite. This may prove a challenge as we do get students who are struggling with English.
3. We use CIS 200 for computer science in all of our programs. The students are computer savvy and they can easily test out of this class - or take it online. I don't know what you do with your programs but this seems to work fine.
4. I purposely made changes to the advanced certificate of achievement so that it no longer looks like the A.S. degree. I cut down the total number of units (although, there are hidden units with prerequisites of Micro and Chem 1A) and offered the students choices so it might prove more attractive. I think you can now see that these certificates are 'stackable' and lead to the A.S. degree which was not really clear before.
5. The 2 classes that underwent some heavy pruning were Immunology and Genetics. I wish I knew whose bright idea it was to have 6 unit classes, but they are too hard for the students and down right exhausting for the faculty! I did a search of offerings in these two subjects at 4 year schools across the state and most are 3 unit lectures, so I shaved off a unit from each of the lecture sections. For genetics, I split the class so that we now have a lecture and lab - should be easier to schedule and to teach.
6. For immunology, I took out the one-unit tissue culture module that was in the lab and made it into a separate class, so this dropped the 2 unit lab to 1 unit giving me a more manageable 4 unit immunology class. I made the new tissue culture class 2 units to meet the C-ID descriptor (I could have sworn it was only one unit when they first wrote that descriptor).
7. The only other change was a name change for our advanced methods class. We have been doing stem cell work in the lab for years and decided to put it in the title. Perhaps it will attract more students.
8. These classes still have prerequisites, but I took a closer look at each and eliminated a few that were not needed.

I suspect I will have to do more tweaking in a couple of years, but this is a start. Our programs were just not sustainable with those big classes and things like tissue culture crammed into immunology - we were leaving the building at 10:30 p.m. and later with the security guards chasing after us - really exhausting. I think our programs were just too 'overweight' with courses and prerequisites and this was contributing to our declining enrollments. So, basically, we slimmed things down a bit.

Let me know what you think. Also, let me know how you are doing - Leslie, what's the air quality like

where you are? These latest college closures are tough, but for those at Merritt it must now be impacting classes because of the closures earlier this semester.

Take care - just got a message the campuses are closed until Monday.

Barbara

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