



DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTION

BIOLOGY

ACTIVE TEACHING DISCIPLINES

For administrative use only; please do *not* edit federal NCES information below.

CIP Code	Title	Definition
26.0101	Biology/Biological Sciences, General.	A general program of biology at the introductory, basic level or a program in biology or the biological sciences that is undifferentiated as to title or content. Includes instruction in general biology and programs covering a variety of biological specializations.

Note: More information on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) taxonomy is available at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/>.

The qualifications described below represent commonly accepted good practices for teaching in the discipline(s) represented in the unit.¹

Section 1. General description of the unit, including academic programs and course offerings²

The Department of Biology offers baccalaureate and master's degree programs in biology as well as a doctoral degree program in integrative and conservation biology. The department also contributes to the university's interdisciplinary doctoral program in biomedical sciences.

The department's research and education programs explore structural and functional aspects of diverse biological systems within an evolutionary framework. Key topics of inquiry include organismal morphology and physiology, cell biology, development, genetics, genomics, animal behavior, ecology, systematics, and evolutionary biology. Faculty and students in the department work with animals, plants, soils, fungi, and microbes, employing molecular, organismal, and ecosystem approaches to questions of biological organization and diversity that span all levels of the biological hierarchy.

Section 2. Qualifying degree(s) for each discipline taught in the unit³

A terminal degree in the teaching discipline qualifies a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline at the undergraduate and graduate levels.⁴

The doctoral degree (e.g., PhD) with a major in biology or any of the biological sciences (e.g., botany, cellular biology, developmental biology, ecology, evolutionary biology, genetics, zoology) represents the terminal degree in the discipline.

Section 3. Broadly related discipline(s) for each discipline taught in the unit

Specialization qualifies a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline (typically five or more courses on distinct topics).

Faculty members with a degree at the appropriate level (master's for undergraduate, doctoral for graduate) in the following disciplines may be qualified to teach across the broad scope of the department's offerings:

- Biochemistry
- Environmental science
- Marine sciences
- Wildlife, fish, and wildlands science and management

Section 4. Selectively related discipline(s) for each discipline taught in the unit

Specialization qualifies a faculty member to teach a restricted set of courses in the teaching discipline (typically four or fewer courses on distinct topics).

Faculty members with a degree at the appropriate level (master's for undergraduate, doctoral for graduate) in the following disciplines may be qualified to teach courses related to their area of specialization:

- Aquatic biology/limnology
- Biological oceanography
- Geography
- Horticultural science
- Marine biology and biological oceanography
- Molecular biology

Section 5. Justification for use of faculty members with "other" teaching qualifications and additional information⁵

The department considers other teaching qualifications in conjunction with or in lieu of academic credentials on a case-by-case basis. This is acceptable in special cases in which evidence of a faculty member's exceptional industry experience, research, or other qualifications can be documented, and in which those qualifications are directly applicable to the course or courses being taught.

1. The unit chair or director, in consultation with unit faculty members, is responsible for identifying and articulating commonly accepted good practices in each of the unit's teaching disciplines and for providing appropriate justification as needed. In the case of an emerging discipline for which common collegiate practice has not yet been established, a compelling case must be made, as necessary, to substantiate the claims presented.

2. Please provide a general description of the unit's course and program offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels (e.g., degree and certificate programs, minors, unit contributions to interdisciplinary core courses). This section may also be used to provide other pertinent information about the unit and the discipline(s) it represents (e.g., discipline accreditation, faculty research emphases).

3. For each discipline taught in the unit, please list those degrees that are regarded by the respective disciplinary community as terminal degrees in the discipline and thus qualify a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of that discipline at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In most fields, a terminal degree is the commonly accepted highest degree in the given field of study. In such instances, the terminal degree is usually considered to be the academic (or research) doctorate (e.g., Doctor of Philosophy). However, some academic fields have, through custom, recognized terminal degrees that are not doctorates (e.g., Master of Fine Arts). Note that terminal degrees in other disciplines may also be appropriate for teaching in the discipline, but such credentials should be listed as broadly or selectively related degrees, as appropriate.

4. A nonterminal master's degree in the teaching discipline qualifies a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline at the undergraduate level but not at the graduate level.

5. Please use this section to provide justification that helps to make the case for special circumstances that apply to the unit, including the use of faculty members qualified to teach by "other" means. Typically, the statements provided in this section should be of a general nature and should not address specific individuals. (Justification for specific individuals is typically handled separately during the teaching certification process.) Please cite appropriate authorities as needed to justify the unit's practices (e.g., discipline accreditation guidelines, governmental regulations).

When a faculty member cannot be qualified to teach on the basis of academic credentials (i.e., degrees, coursework) alone, qualifications other than academic credentials (or combined with academic credentials) that are appropriate for teaching particular courses may be taken into consideration. Such consideration of other teaching qualifications in conjunction with or in lieu of academic credentials must be made on a case-by-case basis. These cases should be exceptional, and the evidence provided of other demonstrated competencies and achievements must be compelling. They should also show significant evidence of professional progress as related to the faculty member's teaching assignment.