

**January 2009**  
**Biology DTA/MRP**  
**Statewide Major Related Program (MRP) Agreement**

This pathway is applicable to students planning to prepare for upper division Bachelor's degree majors in Biology. Many students transfer to baccalaureate institutions after completing the Associate Degree Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA); this pathway does not alter that agreement or the possibility that students may continue to follow this path. This Biology MRP streamlines and facilitates preparation for upper division course work in Biology across the state.

This document represents an agreement between the following baccalaureate institutions offering bachelor's degrees in Biology or a related field and the community and technical college system. Baccalaureate institutions party to this agreement include: Central Washington University; Eastern Washington University; The Evergreen State College; University of Washington Seattle, Washington State University Pullman; Western Washington University; Saint Martin's University; Seattle University; and Whitworth University.

**Community colleges agree:**

- When awarding their degree developed to meet this agreement, they will designate it on the student's transcript as **Associate in Biology DTA/MRP**. Such a degree will meet all the requirements specified in this agreement and all the requirements of the direct transfer agreement (DTA). The colleges will recognize such degrees with an **Exit Code of "R"** effective Summer 2009.
- If Community Colleges find that changes to the MRP are needed, they will notify the Instruction Commission, which will, in turn, notify the Joint Access Oversight Group (JAOG). JAOG will follow clearly defined review processes to address proposed changes.
- Where the degree allows for student choice in classes, the published associate degree listing will include advice to students about contacting potential transfer institutions regarding their choices.

**Participating baccalaureate institutions agree:**

- Students completing associate degrees meeting this agreement who have also met any specific institutional GPA requirements will be regarded as having the minimum preparation for consideration for admission to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science program in Biology unless an exception is specifically noted in this agreement.
- Baccalaureate institutions will apply a minimum of 90-quarter credits required under this agreement to the credits required in the bachelor's degree, subject to the provisos in the ICRC DTA agreement.
- Baccalaureate institutions will each build an alert mechanism into their curriculum review process for changes related to the Biology DTA/MRP.
  - The alert will go to the institution or sector JAOG member.
  - If the proposed change will affect lower division course taking, the JAOG member will bring the issue to JAOG attention for action to review or update this Major Related Program Agreement.
- Prior to making changes in the admission requirements, institutions agree to participate in the JAOG designed review process and to abide by the related implementation timelines.
- This statewide process applies only to changes<sup>1</sup> in the requirements for admission to the major. References to changes do not include changes in graduation requirements that are completed at the upper division or the GPA an institution may establish for admission to a program.

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<sup>1</sup> As judged by impact on students. This statewide process is called into play when potential student majors need to complete specific courses not previously identified or present test results or information not included in the agreement.

## Associate Degree DTA/Biology MRP

Generic DTA Requirements	Biology MRP Requirements	Notes
<b>A. Basic Requirements</b>		
<b>1. Communication Skills (10 credits)</b>	10 quarter credits English composition	May be individualized based on baccalaureate college of choice
<b>2. Quantitative/Symbolic Reasoning Skills (5 credits)</b>	5 quarter credits mathematics - Calculus I	Statistics (a course that includes descriptive and inferential statistics) may substitute for Calculus I at some institutions; students are encouraged to check with the transfer institution early in their decision process to confirm requirements.
Intermediate Algebra Proficiency is required	Intermediate Algebra Proficiency leading to a pre-calculus math course is required	Intermediate Algebra proficiency may be demonstrated by successful completion of a Calculus and/or Statistics course for which Intermediate Algebra is a prerequisite.
<b>B. Distribution Requirements</b>		
<b>1. Humanities (15 credits)</b>	15 quarter credits of Humanities	In order to better prepare for successful transfer, students are encouraged to consult with the institution(s) to which they wish to transfer regarding the humanities courses that best support or may be required as prerequisites to their Biology curriculum.
Consistent with the requirements in all DTA degrees - no more than 10 credits per discipline area, 5 credits maximum in world languages or ASL. No more than 5 credits of performance/skills classes are allowed.	Consistent with the requirements in all DTA degrees - no more than 10 credits per discipline area, 5 credits maximum in world languages or ASL. No more than 5 credits of performance/skills classes are allowed.	
<b>2. Social Sciences (15 credits)</b>	15 quarter credits of Social Sciences	In order to better prepare for successful transfer, students are encouraged to consult with the institution(s) to which they wish to transfer regarding the social science courses that best support or may be required as prerequisites to their Biology curriculum.

Generic DTA Requirements	Biology MRP Requirements	Notes
<b>B. Distribution Requirements (continued)</b>		
<b>3. Natural Sciences (minimum of 15 credits)</b>	30 quarter credits, including: - 15 credits general biology (majors level) - 15 credits general chemistry (majors level)	<p>The only general biology sequences (major's level) accepted are those with SBCTC common course numbering - identified with an ampersand (&amp;). The two sequences accepted are:            Sequence 1—Biol&amp; 211, Biol&amp; 212, and Biol&amp; 213; <b>OR</b>            Sequence 2 – Biol&amp; 221, Biol&amp; 222, and Biol&amp; 223</p> <p>Students should take the full year sequence at a single college.</p> <p>All baccalaureate institutions want the following four areas covered within the 15 credit general biology sequence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ecology</li> <li>2. Evolution</li> <li>3. Major Cell and Molecular biology</li> <li>4. Organismal (plant and animal) physiology</li> </ol>
<b>C. Electives</b>	15 additional quarter credits  These 15 additional credits should be planned in consultation with and advisor	<p>Electives allow students to include additional courses to prepare for the biology major based on college selection. Examples include a full year sequence of organic chemistry for majors; a full year sequence of physics for science majors; or further math at the pre-calculus level or above or statistics.</p> <p>Students should check with the transfer institution prior to taking any further biology courses beyond the one-year sequence. Some colleges require all continuing biology courses be taken at the 300 level.</p>

### Notes on Application to a University or College

1. Admission application deadlines vary; students must meet the deadline for the university or universities to which they plan to apply for transfer admission.
2. Certain schools may have additional “university-specific” requirements that are not prerequisites to admission to the Biology major but will need to be completed prior to graduation. Contact with advisors from individual schools for institutional requirements is highly recommended since this DTA may not meet every institution-specific graduation requirement.
3. Certain schools may have additional “university-specific” requirements for admission to the institution that are not prerequisites specifically identified in the DTA requirements.

### Associate Degrees developed under this agreement shall:

- Meet the requirements of the statewide Direct Transfer Agreement as it applies to both institutions party to this agreement and other institutions party to the statewide DTA agreement. If admitted to the baccalaureate institution, students will have junior standing. Students seeking admission to public institutions will be given priority in the admission decision for admission to the institution over similarly qualified transfer applicants without a Direct Transfer Associate degree. Admission to an institution does not guarantee admission to a specific program or major.
- Be issued only to students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00, as calculated by the degree awarding institution. Specific grade requirements vary from course to course and among transfer institutions. Students must check with the transfer institution. **Note that admission to specific upper division Biology programs may be competitive; therefore, no particular GPA can guarantee admission to any specific program.**

**THIS DOCUMENT RECORDS THE BIOLOGY DTA MRP AGREEMENT. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO SERVE AS AN ADVISING TOOL FOR STUDENTS.**

**APPENDIX A**

**Biology DTA/MRP  
Statewide Major Related Program (MRP)  
Participants to the Agreement**

The Joint Access Oversight Group (JAOG) reviewed this agreement on December 12, 2008 and forwarded it for approval by the chief academic officers of the public and private baccalaureate institutions offering the Biology degree and the Instruction Commission representing the chief academic officers of the public community and technical colleges.

*(Note: Signatures are on file at the Higher Education Coordinating Board)*

**Instruction Commission, on behalf of the Washington State Community and Technical Colleges** \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Central Washington University Date

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Saint Martin’s University Date

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Eastern Washington University Date

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Seattle University Date

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The Evergreen State College Date

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Whitworth University Date

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University of Washington Seattle Date

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University Date

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Washington State University Pullman Date

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University Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Western Washington University Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
University Date

## APPENDIX B: Biology Workgroup Participants

Co-Chairs: Flash Gibson, Eastern Washington University; Travis Kibota, Clark College

### Public Universities

Central Washington University  
Paul James  
Eastern Washington University  
Flash Gibson  
Washington State University Pullman  
Charlotte Omoto  
Western Washington University  
Anu Singh-Cundy  
The Evergreen State College  
Nancy Murray

### Independent Colleges

Saint Martin's University  
Margaret Olney  
Whitworth University  
Lee Anne Chaney  
Seattle University  
Mara Rempe

### Community and Technical Colleges

Clark College  
Travis Kibota  
Edmonds Community College  
Jenny McFarland  
Pierce College  
Dale Blum  
Centralia College  
Steve Norton  
Lower Columbia Community College  
Carl Roush  
Bellevue Community College  
Gita Banger  
Big Bend Community College  
Rachel Anderson  
Columbia Basin Community College  
Jenny von Reis  
Spokane Falls Community College  
Gary Blevins

### Agency Staff

Independent Colleges of Washington  
Vi Boyer  
Council of Presidents  
Cindy Morana, Mike Reilly  
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
Michelle Andreas  
Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Randy Spaulding, Jim West

## **Joint Access Oversight Group Members 2008-09**

Co-chair: Sandra Fowler-Hill, Vice President of Instruction, Everett Community College

Co-chair: Jane Sherman, Vice Provost for Academic Policy and Evaluation, Washington State University

Vi Boyer, President and CEO, Independent Colleges of Washington

Tracy Pellett, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies, Central Washington University

Rassoul Dastmozd, Vice President of Instruction, Clark College

Randy Spaulding, Director, Academic Affairs, Higher Education Coordinating Board

Patricia Onion, Vice President for Educational Services, Whatcom Community College,

Pam Praeger, Vice President for Learning/Chief Academic Officer, Spokane Falls Community College

Michelle Andreas, Associate Director, Educational Services, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Loretta Seppanen, Assistant Director, Educational Services, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Laurie Kaye Clary, Vice President of Instruction, Grays Harbor College

Larry Briggs, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services, Eastern Washington University

Kathleen Kitto, Associate Dean, College of Sciences and Technology, Western Washington University

John Sahr, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, University of Washington

Jim West, Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Higher Education Coordinating Board

Jim Minkler, Vice President for Academic Services, Community Colleges of Spokane

Jeff Wagnitz, Vice President of Instruction Highline Community College

Ivan Gorne, Vice President, Student Services, Bates Technical College

Doug Scrima, Director of Admissions, The Evergreen State College

Dorna Bullpitt, Interim Vice President for Instruction, South Puget Sound Community College

Cindy Morana, Associate Director, Council of Presidents

Brad Tomhave, Registrar, University of Puget Sound