

# Interested in Research?

## A Guide to Directed Independent Study (DIR) in Biology

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### How to pursue DIR in Biology

1. Identify a faculty member of interest to you. FAU Biology faculty have expertise in organismal biology, environmental science, neuroscience, cell biology and marine science. To view faculty lists by area of expertise, see [biology.fau.edu/](http://biology.fau.edu/) and click on **Research**.
2. Go to individual faculty webpages to read more about their research. The complete faculty list with links to individual faculty webpages can be found at [http://biology.fau.edu/home/departamental\\_faculty.php](http://biology.fau.edu/home/departamental_faculty.php).
3. Send your faculty member of interest an email. Introduce yourself, state why you are interested in working in their research lab and ask permission to enroll in DIR credits with them. Discuss what your responsibilities as a DIR student would be and come to an agreed upon credit number and lab work schedule.
4. If a faculty member agrees to allow you to perform DIR under their supervision, obtain their signature and a project title on a Departmental DIR form ([http://biology.fau.edu/formsandpolicies/dir\\_registration\\_form.pdf](http://biology.fau.edu/formsandpolicies/dir_registration_form.pdf)) and submit the form to SC 136 for processing.
5. Obtain appropriate safety training. Flip this page over for more information about safety training. →



\*Note: In order for DIR to count toward fulfillment of the biology elective requirement for biology majors, you must register in BSC 4910 with a **Biology** faculty member ([http://biology.fau.edu/home/departamental\\_faculty.php](http://biology.fau.edu/home/departamental_faculty.php)).

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### Health and Safety

All FAU faculty, staff and students working in life science laboratories must complete safety training through Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) prior to entering the research laboratory or laboratory classroom. Three trainings are required for all laboratory/laboratory classroom workers:

- [Laboratory Safety Training](#)
- [Biological Safety Training](#)
- [Hazardous Waste Awareness and Handling](#)



These trainings must be renewed annually. All initial trainings must be completed in person (see the [EH&S Training Calendar](#) at [www.fau.edu/facilities/ehs](http://www.fau.edu/facilities/ehs)) but annual refreshers may be completed online. Additional trainings should be completed as required (e.g. Diving Safety, Radiation Safety). Requirements will differ depending upon the type of research being conducted in a given laboratory.

**Note:** EHS training is site specific. FAU students performing research at affiliate institutions are responsible for obtaining appropriate Environmental Health and Safety training at those institutions.

**Additional available Safety Trainings Relevant to Biology Student Research include:**

- [Bloodborne Pathogens Training](#)
- [First Aid/CPR/AED Training](#)
- [Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries](#)
- [Radiation Safety Training](#)
- [Training Dive \(Diver-in-Training\)](#)
- [Training Dive \(Scientific Diver\)](#)

This list is not inclusive. For the full list of trainings offered by EHS at FAU along with detailed descriptions, please see EHS Safety Training at: <http://www.fau.edu/facilities/ehs/training/index.php>.

**\*\*\*Note:** Students who will be working with live vertebrate animals or human subjects must obtain additional trainings above and beyond those mentioned above:

If you will work with live vertebrate animals, you must:

- 1) Enroll in the FAU Medical Monitoring Program, <http://www.fau.edu/research/research-integrity/medical-monitoring.php>
- 2) complete CITI Lab Animal Welfare training (at a minimum, you must complete the "investigators, staff & students module") and, <http://www.fau.edu/research/research-integrity/animal-research-mandatory-training.php>
- 3) make sure that your professor adds you to their IACUC protocol.

If you will work with Human subjects, you must:

- 1) complete CITI Human Subjects Research training and, <http://www.fau.edu/research/research-integrity/citi-training.php#human>
- 2) make sure that your professor adds you to their IRB protocol.