



Memorandum

To: Biology Professionals

From: John Plenefisch, Ph.D.
Faculty Lead, Biology TAG Review/Revision Panel

Re: Updates to the Biology Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) Course Learning Outcomes

Date: September 30, 2016

Background

The Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network (OATN) sent a request to me as the Biology Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) Review Panel lead last summer to determine if the Biology TAG courses were in need of a review/update. Our Biology TAG Faculty Review/Revision Panel has met several times between September 2015 and September 2016. As part of this process, we also asked the OATN staff to work with Ohio's 36 public colleges and universities to collect current syllabi, which were informative for the Panel. Our role as a statewide faculty panel has been to assure two main key items: the quality of Biology I and II major courses offered to our students (contributes to their potential for success) and transferability of their courses (efficiency and affordability). In order to ensure quality and rigor, we as a group of professionals felt that Ohio's Biology TAG courses ought to be aligned with the core concepts and competencies which have been identified as foundations of undergraduate biological literacy by the [National Science Foundation/American Association for the Advancement of Science](#).

More recently we were able to finalize our revision recommendations. Please share this memo and the attachments with appropriate faculty and administrators at your institution who manage/teach your Biology TAG courses.

Updates

In the attached, you will find the revised TAG learning outcomes for OSC003 Biology I and OSC004 Biology II. Basically, the faculty panel's changes to the TAG course outcomes centered on:

1. Defining the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) in terms of what students who successfully complete the courses should be able to do;
2. Aligning the list of student learning outcomes with the set of core concepts and competencies identified as foundational for undergraduate Biology education by the National Science Foundation and the American Association for the Advancement of Science as published in the "Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education" document (<http://visionandchange.org/files/2013/11/aaas-VISchange-web1113.pdf>); and
3. Focusing and validating each course submission using specific measurable student learning outcomes, rather than course or instructor goals for the courses.

The details of the specific changes are described in the attached document “An Overview of Changes.”

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at john.plenefisch@utoledo.edu or (419) 530-1547.

I wish to express my thanks for the dedicated work of the Biology TAG Faculty Review Panel for their incredible collaboration in updating the learning outcomes. The faculty members of the Biology TAG Review/Revision Panel included: John Plenefisch (Revision/Review Panel Lead, The University of Toledo), Karen Sirum (Bowling Green State University), Wendy Gagliano (Clark State Community College), Cynthia Conaway-Mavroidis (Cuyahoga Community College), Rachael Detraz (Edison State Community College), Caroline Breitenberger (The Ohio State University), and Caryl Tickner (Stark State College).

Implication to Your TAG Courses

Although the spirit of the previous learning outcomes continues to be implemented for both courses, the Statewide Faculty Panel members recommended that, based on the better aligned course criteria, institutions with a course already approved for the respective TAG course be required to resubmit for re-validation. Many of the TAG approved courses were reviewed and approved 4 to 11 years ago. OATN staff provided the Panel with a list of institutions and courses based on the initial approval dates. Based on that information, each institution has been assigned a submission and review schedule. Each institution will be granted one year to submit the two courses together at the same time. Approval of those courses will be required in order for students to be able to continue taking advantage of the statewide TAG course equivalency guarantee.

If courses happen not to be approved within a year, the current TAG approvals will be expired by the OATN staff. The Review Panel greatly appreciates your coordination and cooperation to stay on track and proactively get the submission work started early on your assigned schedule. Delay in this process will not only result in disservice to our students but also put unnecessary burden on both the submitter and the Review Panel.

According to the OATN staff, their [TAG course description website](#) provides submission templates that you need in order to work with your TAG coordinator. Should you have any questions about the submission process, please contact Hideo Tsuchida at (614) 644-0642 or htsuchida@highered.ohio.gov or Michelle Blaney at (614) 644-9601 or mblaney@highered.ohio.gov at the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network.

Below is the resubmission schedule for your institution:

January 2017-October 2017 (Winter, Spring, and Fall Review Cycles)	
Bowling Green State University	OSC003 – BIOL 2050 OSC004 – BIOL 2040
Central State University	OSC003 – BIO 1801

	OSC004 – BIO 1802
Cleveland State University	OSC003 – BIO 200, 201 OSC004 – BIO 202, 203
Cuyahoga Community College	OSC003 – BIO 1500 OSC003 – BIO 150H OSC004 – BIO 1510
Eastern Gateway Community College	OSC003 – BIO 114 OSC004 – BIO 115
Lakeland Community College	OSC003 – BIOL 1510 OSC004 – BIOL 1520
Lorain County Community College	OSC003 – BIOG 161 OSC003 – BIOG 161G OSC004 – BIOG 162
North Central State College	OSC003 – BIOL 1230 (currently under panel review) OSC004 – BIOL 1231 (currently under panel review)
Northwest State Community College	OSC003 – BIO 201 OSC004 – BIO 202
Owens Community College	OSC003 – BIO 201 OSC004 – BIO 202
Rio Grande Community College	OSC003 – BIO 12104 (currently not approved) OSC004 – BIO 12204 (currently not approved)
Shawnee State University	OSC003 – BIOL 1151 OSC004 – BIOL 1152 (currently not approved)
Stark State College	OSC003 – BIO 141 OSC004 – BIO 142
Terra State Community College	OSC003 – BIO 2010, 2015 OSC004 – BIO 2020, 2025
The University of Akron	OSC003 – 3100 111 OSC004 – 3100 112
The University of Toledo	OSC003 – BIOL 2170, 2180 OSC004 – BIOL 2150, 2160
Youngstown State University	OSC003 – BIOL 2601 OSC004 – BIOL 2602/2602H

January 2018-October 2018 (Winter, Spring, and Fall Review Cycles)	
Central Ohio Technical College	OSC003 – BIO 160 OSC004 – BIO 161
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College	OSC003 – BIO 131 OSC004 – BIO 132
Clark State Community College	OSC003 – BIO 1510

	OSC004 – BIO 1520
Columbus State Community College	OSC003 – BIO 1113 OSC004 – BIO 1114
Ohio University	OSC003 – BIOS 1700, 1705 OSC004 – BIOS 1710, 1715
Sinclair College	OSC003 – BIO 1171 OSC004 – BIO 1272
Southern State Community College	OSC003 – BIOL 1101 OSC004 – BIOL 1102
The Ohio State University	OSC003 – BIOLOGY 1113 OSC004 – BIOLOGY 1114
University of Cincinnati	OSC003 – BIOL 1081, 1081L OSC004 – BIOL 1082, 1082L
Washington State Community College	OSC003 – BIOL 1100, 110L OSC003 – BIOL 110H, 110L OSC004 – BIOL 1110, 111L
Wright State University	OSC003 – BIO 1120 OSC004 – BIO 1150
Zane State College	OSC003 – BIOL 1210 OSC004 – BIOL 1220

January 2019-October 2019 (Winter, Spring, and Fall Review Cycles)	
Edison State Community College	OSC003 – BIO 121S OSC004 – BIO 122S
Hocking College	OSC003 – BIOS 1121 OSC004 – BIOS 1122
Kent State University	OSC003 – BSCI 10120 OSC004 – BSCI 10110
Miami University	OSC003 – BIO 116/MBI 116 OSC004 – BIO 115/MBI 115

Thank you very much.