

Proposal to Extend Undergraduate Minor in Biology to Distant Locations via Online Delivery by Ecampus

From Brock McLeod – Integrative Biology

We had a significant portion of our leadership out when the Integrative Biology (IB) designator feedback came back to us this year so I am only now getting back to you. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue.

We were initially led to believe that inclusion of this designator would be a simple task based on the merits of IB major proposal. We were surprised at the outcome, particularly after hearing the Registrar was supportive and there were no significant pitfalls similar to those in recent undergraduate designator changes. We still feel the creation of this designator warrants the work involved, much of which would be done by us though the creation of change course proposals to expedite. There would presumably be very little in the way of other updates because these are graduate courses.

We agree that the value in a single IB designator is not as much in how these courses are transcribed. As you noted, the degree title and content of the courses will continue to be more important for our graduates.

We continue to believe this graduate designator has real benefits for our current IB students and other graduate students on campus. As you suggest, taking courses across designators obviously happens in graduate programs, but it does not generally happen within a single department – we know of no other examples at OSU. Undergraduates with a set curriculum easily see major courses in their MyDegrees regardless of the unit offering them. Having two designators is more complicated for graduate students in IB and across campus since they have few set requirements and must search for courses to propose as part of their training. Keeping the dual designator structure is not a student centered approach as our online systems are silos based on searches for single designators, and students, faculty and staff on campus generally conduct searches based on department names. Having an IB designator that mirrors our department name has real value for our graduate students and others on campus by allowing them to easily find and utilize appropriate coursework. It also allows us to more easily management graduate course offerings.

Thanks for your consideration.