

Integrative Biology (IB) Designator Proposal

This proposal seeks to create the Integrative Biology designator outlined in the new Integrative Biology (IB) graduate program (proposal #93583) in the Department of Integrative Biology. The IB designator will house the graduate courses in the Department of Integrative Biology currently housed in the Biology (BI) and Zoology (Z) designators. These courses will serve the Integrative Biology graduate MS and PhD programs in addition to the graduate minor. The BI and Z designators will continue to serve the undergraduate Biology and Zoology majors.

Current biological research and graduate training transcends taxonomic boundaries and levels of biological organization as do our courses housed in the new Integrative Biology designator. Our change from graduate training in Zoology to Integrative Biology is reflected by similar name change by many other departments in the US and Canada. Several renowned universities (e.g., UC, Berkeley and University of Texas, Austin) have changed their departments and graduate programs to Integrative Biology. Changing our graduate designator to Integrative Biology will bring it in line with our degrees and departmental name, eliminate confusion about multiple graduate designators, and help to reflect the scope of our graduate training. It will also align with peer academic units on campus such as Botany and Plant Pathology (PBB), Biochemistry and Biophysics (BB) and Microbiology (MB).

The new Designator will be managed by the Department of Integrative Biology in the College of Science. The management of the designator will be the responsibility of Integrative Biology, and Student Credit Hours (SCH) will continue to accrue to IB under the proposed change. Scheduling, updates and assessment will be covered by the same faculty and staff responsible for the current BI and Z designators. Only current graduate courses under BI and Z in the Department of Integrative Biology will be moved to the new designator. There will be no changes in the crosslisting of graduate IB courses with undergraduate courses except for updates within our department (e.g. Z423/IB 423). The graduate versions of Biology (BI) and Z (Zoology) courses will be terminated once the new IB designator is in place.