

**Problem Statement:**

OSU's baccalaureate core require all students to take 12 credits of lab science in the lower division (Perspectives), with at least four credits in physical science and four credits in biological (life) science, but there is no standard for what constitutes a lab science for the purposes of the bacc core, by which course proposals for these categories may be evaluated for inclusion and existing courses reviewed for recertification. In contrast, a rigorous standard or definition exists for what constitutes a writing intensive course (WIC).

**Solution:**

A broad and inclusive definition for what constitutes a lab science is needed against which courses may be evaluated for inclusion or recertification in the baccalaureate core physical and biological science with lab categories. We propose the following **definition** for this purpose:

A lab science course contains at least one credit<sup>1</sup> of laboratory activities that collectively employ the full spectrum of the scientific method and constitute at least 25% of the course grade. Such activities shall have students develop and/or use qualitative or quantitative observations to explore concepts in physical or biological sciences. Students shall make interpretations, draw conclusions that are rooted in empirical evidence, and communicate their results.

<sup>1</sup>OSU's credit hour policy can be found at <https://registrar.oregonstate.edu/osu-credit-hour-policy>