

Prepared by the Department of Natural Science
Date of Departmental Approval: February 13, 2017
Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 22, 2017

Effective: Fall 2017

1. **Course Number:** SCI150
Course Title: Scientific Writing & Presentation
2. **Description:** This course develops technical writing and presentation skills of students pursuing STEM careers. The course components are organized around: collection, evaluation, and organization of information from reliable sources; making critical summaries; writing a scientific/technical report in a recognized format (APA, MLA, IEEE, etc.); making oral and slide presentations with multimedia and poster presentations. Grammar, spelling, proofreading, and effective writing and presentation skills are emphasized.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes** (Instructional objectives; intellectual skills)
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
 - Evaluate scientific and technical information from online sources and published articles
 - Interpret data in the form of spreadsheets, graphs, and charts
 - Summarize and present information as a specified length of text
 - Understand and use scientific and technical vocabulary, measurement systems, conventions, and abbreviations
 - Write a technical report or research paper using common standard formats, with data and images
 - Manipulate and edit multimedia files
 - Prepare and deliver slide presentations, with embedded multimedia
 - Organize and present technical or research information as a poster or web page
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Interdisciplinary Studies
6. **Prerequisites:** Grade of C- or better in ENL101 (English Composition I)
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Spring

Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on weekly assignments, timed online assignments, assigned critiques, a research paper or report in a recognized format, a multimedia presentation, and a poster on a specified topic. Assignments will be individualized, and based on career path.
8. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**

1	Collection of information	Books, journals, and websites as sources of reliable information Spotting suspect information Plagiarism, fair use, and copyright
2	Informational keywords	Writing a point-wise information summary Executive summaries and “plain language” summaries – examples from journal articles Expanding a summary into text of specified length
3	Organization of a technical report or research paper	Scientific word usage, synonyms, measurement systems and abbreviations Modules: Title, abstract, introduction, materials, methods, results, discussion, references, list of abbreviations, acknowledgements, funding sources Organization of tables, charts, and figures Format variations
4	Multimedia	Recording and basic editing of video and audio
5	Oral presentations	Format, clarity, layout, and length of a slide/multimedia presentation Integration of audio, video, and animations Organization of notes, presentation timing Engaging an audience, provoking, and responding to audience questions
6	Poster presentations	Effective layouts and poster design elements Formal presentation
7	Web reports	Organization of web-based reports