



**RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS  
(ECOL 4960)  
Independent Research in Ecology**

**Course Description**

The purpose of research credit is to give students an opportunity to learn how research is carried out through assisting in the laboratory and field, by attending group meetings of professors and students, with library research, and the development and completion of a project under a professor's direction. Research is different from an internship in that research is ordinarily done under the direct supervision of a professor in the professor's laboratory or field site and provides the student with experience as a research scientist.

**Requirements**

The student can receive 2 to 4 hours of credit for this course. Independent Research in Ecology is repeatable for a maximum of 10 hours of credit. All students enrolled in ECOL 4960 must complete either a research paper or a poster by the end of the semester for which they are enrolled.

**Regular Semester:**

- 2 credits= 8 contact hours per week
- 3 credits= 10 contact hours per week
- 4 credits= 12 contact hours per week

**Summer Semester (June and July):**

- 2 credits= 11 hours per week
- 3 credits= 17 hours per week
- 4 credits= 22 hours per week

**Registration**

The student must complete a research registration form and a 1-page prospectus. The prospectus shall describe the goals and objectives of the research project. A student will not be granted a POD to register until the Research Registration Form and prospectus have been submitted to the Undergraduate Program Office (Room 18 in Ecology).

**Grade**

Credit for research is a letter grade, determined by the professor. To avoid misunderstanding, the expectations and criteria for this grade should be discussed between the student and professor before the research begins.