CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM #3
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

**NEW COURSE**

COURSE NUMBER: 630 - 492 /692 EFFECTIVE TERM: Spring 1995
)SS LISTED NO.: ____ - ____ / ____

COURSE TITLE: Laboratory Teaching Experience

CHARACTER ABBREVIATION L A B T E A C H I N G E X P
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SPONSOR(S): Biological Sciences Curriculum Committee

DEPARTMENT(S): Biological Sciences

COLLEGE(S): Letters and Sciences

:ECK IF THE COURSE IS TO MEET ANY THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:
o Writing Requirement
o Diversity Requirement
o General Studies, Area: ____
o Computer Requirement

CONTACT HOURS/CREDITS
Total Lecture Hours ____
Total Lab Hours 30
Total Contact Hours 30
Number of Credits 1

THE COURSE REQUIRED IN: IS THE COURSE REPEATABLE: YES X, NO ____

o Major, ____ No. of Times in Major ____ and No. of Credits ____

o Minor, ____ No. of Times in Degree 2 and No. of Credits 2

o Emphasis, ____ S/NC only

ACH THE FOLLOWING:

I. C RSE JUSTIFICATION

. RELATIONS P TO PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

III. BUDGETARY IMPACT

IV. PROGRAMS AFFECTED IN OTHER ACADEMIC UNITS

V. COURSE DESCRIPTION

VI. REQUISITES

VII. TENTATIVE COURSE SYLLABUS

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biological Sciences 630-492/692: Laboratory Teaching Experience Proposal

I. **Course Justification**: A number of students in the Biological Sciences programs at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater are enrolled in teacher certification programs. Many other students expect to enter graduate schools, where they will support their continued education by working as teaching assistants. Both of these groups of students would benefit from experience teaching biology in addition to the opportunities offered by the College of Education. Undergraduate teaching assistantships are becoming a national model in quality liberal arts and sciences colleges, and comprehensive university's students are becoming less competitive partly due to a lack of similar experience. This additional educational experience will make our students more attractive to school districts and graduate schools and will improve their teaching performances by establishing a mentored relationship with teaching faculty.

II. **Relationship to Program Objectives**: This course should have low student demand, since it will not be allowed for majors' or minors' credit and only highly motivated and academically talented students will be eligible to take this course. Students enrolling are required to have completed the course in which they are assisting with a grade of B or better, effectively restricting the course to students in their second semester or later. Graduate students will be expected to assume more laboratory preparation duties and laboratory leadership than undergraduates.

In addition, this course will facilitate accomplishing the following educational objectives listed in the most recent annual report from the Department of Biological Sciences:

a. Subject matter. Assisting faculty in laboratory instructional duties will help the undergraduate teaching experience student (referred to hereafter as a Laboratory Assistant or LA) reinforce her knowledge in the subject taught, and provide those students in a class using an LA additional access to in class support. This additional access to instruction should facilitate timely accomplishment of laboratory exercises, with better mastery of subject material by students.

b. Cognitive development. Students in this course will improve critical thinking, and problem solving by assisting others in these tasks. Oral presentation skills will improve with the practice of explaining and demonstrating course material to other students.

III. **Budgetary Impact**: This course will require no special offerings, since it will be taught individually by contract between the student and a faculty mentor. Faculty mentors will not receive teaching load compensation for mentoring. Mentoring will be regarded as equivalent to sponsoring independent research students in departmental merit and teaching load consideration. No budgetary impact is anticipated.

IV. **Programs Affected**: This course should supplement the College of Education's Practicum programs. Virginia Epps and Michael Nelson, science education specialists

in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction will be consulted prior to submission of this proposal.

**V. Course Description:** This course provides teaching experience at the college level for undergraduate students. Undergraduate teaching experience students will assist faculty members in preparing, delivering, and tearing down laboratory or discussion section instructional units in biology courses, conducting review sessions, and tutoring students under the direct supervision of a faculty mentor. S/NC only.

**VI. Requisites.** Grade of B or better in the assigned course, and a G.P.A. of 3.0 or better. Approval of a faculty mentor and the Biological Sciences Department.

**VII. Course Syllabus:**

A. Learning Objectives:

1. Reinforcement of specific course content
2. Topic outline: varies with student assignment
3. Methods for evaluation: LA's will be evaluated in part by student evaluations identical to those for the faculty member teaching the course to which the LA is assigned, and on the basis of attendance, participation, and preparation by the supervising faculty member. Undergraduate teaching experience students will not be responsible for grading.
4. Text will vary with student assignment
5. Graduate students will be expected to assume more laboratory preparation duties and laboratory leadership than undergraduates.
6. Specific duties vary with course instructional assignment and are approved by the faculty mentor and the Biological Sciences faculty on a case by case basis.
7. Grading is S/NC only.

**VIII. Bibliography.** N/A. References will mirror those applying to course assigned.