

**BMS 498: Biomedical Sciences Research**

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# Overview

The Biomedical Sciences Research (BMS 498) lets you earn credit toward your major for conducting research with your research mentor. You and your mentor decide on the amount of time you will spend in the laboratory, the nature of the work you will perform and the projected goals for your research. You will have opportunities to hone your speaking and writing skills by presenting your research in multiple formats. At the end of the semester, you will prepare a written report summarizing your accomplishments.

Once you are an approved biomedical sciences major, you may apply to take BMS 498. You will need to identify a research opportunity and provide your resume to the faculty mentor or sponsoring agency. You may also meet your potential mentor for an interview. You may use 3 credits worth of BMS 498 one time to count towards one of your advanced electives. You can get credit for BMS 498 more than once however you can only use it fulfill an elective one time.

***NOTE!*** *The biomedical sciences research obligates students to spend 3 hrs/wk at the research site for every credit for which they are registered. Thus, students registered for 4 credits are expected to spend 12 hours a week “on the job”. Research can be arranged for 1-4 credits.*

Program Director

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# Student Responsibilities

# Find a research opportunity and make appropriate arrangements for the experience in consultation

# Submit a signed BMS 498 contract to the Program Director before the drop/add deadline

# Meet the time requirement based on the number of credits (see chart below).

# Keep a time sheet with specific dates and times worked

# Recommended to meet mid-semester with the mentor to make sure you are on track

# Submit a final 2-3 page report to the Program Director by the last day of classes along with the time sheet

# Site supervisor will complete an evaluation form, sent by the Program Director, to determine your grade.

# Frequently Asked Questions

# Where have students completed their biomedical sciences research?

# *The best place to start looking for a research opportunity is the Center for Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (CURCA) website:* [*https://curca.buffalo.edu/students/find-research.php*](https://curca.buffalo.edu/students/find-research.php)*. They have a database of all the active research that is taking place on campus.*

# What is the role of the mentor? The role of the Program Director?

# *The mentor is the person with whom the student intern spends most of his or her time. This is typically a professional (MD, PhD, PA, and the like) who directs the student’s research experience. This is the person who determines what the research experience will involve. The mentor is the individual who indicates what the student will be expected to do, what the limitations of the experience will be, and what the expectations are relative to actual responsibilities on site. The mentor will determine the grade.*

# *The Program Director is the faculty member who oversees force registration into the course once the contract is signed, reviews the time sheet and reflection paper and sends and collects the evaluation from the site supervisor regarding assignment of a final grade.*

# What is a time sheet?

# *The time sheet is a record of participation in the research. It should list the dates and time spent at the internship site. Most student date each journal entry and indicate the number of hours spent on site. A note in the margin might read “9/1/18: 2 pm – 5 pm (3 hours, 15 hours total)”. That note refers to the 3 hours spent on site on 9/1/18 and shows a running total of 15 hours to date. Some mentors provide pre-formatted time sheets.*

# What belongs in the final report?

# *The final 2-3 page report provides students with an opportunity to reflect on their research. It should summarize how well the objectives that were established at the beginning were met by the actual experience. The final report can include references to specific learning experiences, successes and failures, new insights, positive and negative aspects of the research. It should be typed and double-spaced.*

# How is the time commitment related to credits earned?

| *Credits Earned* | *Total Time Commitment* | *Typical Schedule* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *1* | *45 hours* | *3 hours/week for 15 weeks* |
| *2* | *90 hours* | *6 hours/week for 15 weeks* |
| *3* | *135 hours* | *9 hours/week for 15 weeks* |
| *4* | *180 hours* | *12 hours/week for 15 weeks* |

# What is the purpose of the evaluation?

# *The evaluation is designed to check on a student’s performance and used to help determine the grade.*

# How is the final grade determined?

# *The grade is based on the recommendation from the site supervisor. You will be given a grade of A-F.*