

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Testing Services And The Department of Biological Sciences

BIOS 103/105 Proficiency Examination

ELIGIBILITY: Students who are well prepared in biology are invited to take this proficiency exam. However, the BIOS 103/105 proficiency exam is not available for credit for students majoring in biological sciences or for students with previous credit in a college level general biology class.

NOTE: Students may not earn proficiency credit for courses that are prerequisites to any class for which they have already received credit. Normally, a student may attempt to gain proficiency through examination only once.

PROFICIENCY EXAM: The exam consists of 60 questions with 60 minutes of testing time allotted. A student will gain 4 hours of credit, consisting of BIOS 103 (3) and BIOS 105 (1), if they answer at least 45 out of the 60 questions correctly (75% or higher) on the exam. No credit will be granted for lower scores.

AREAS OF CONTENT: The exam will cover the material typically found in a one semester college-level general biology class. The topics include basic biochemistry, cell structure, metabolism, photosynthesis, evolution, ecology, phylogeny, physiology, genetics, and basic laboratory techniques.

STUDY MATERIALS: Most textbooks designed for an introductory level college biology course will include the information covered in this exam. Additional questions regarding content and study material should be directed to the Department of Biological Sciences, Lori Judkins (ljudkins@niu.edu), 815-753-0433.

REGISTRATION: The exam must be scheduled in advance with Testing Services, www.niu.edu/testing, Campus Life Building, Room 120, testing@niu.edu, 815-753-1203.

11/24/20