BIOL-SP course description

BIOL-SP will provide an enriched experience for students who want to excel and continue studies in biology or a related discipline (e.g., biochemistry, environmental science, neuroscience). **Students must apply to get into BIOL-SP and concurrently enroll in introductory BIOL 001 or 002 (including a lab section).** If you are interested in the course, enroll in BIOL 001 or 002 and lab and SP during registration. Choose a lab section that does not conflict with the SP meeting times. Those who are accepted and successfully complete the workshop will receive 0.5 credits, in addition to the 1 credit they earn for BIOL001 or 002.

BIOL-SP has a mission of pro-actively facilitating the development of the advanced study skills necessary for success in biology at the college level while simultaneously supporting the firm analytical and integrative foundation that continuation in college biology requires. During the workshop meetings, students will strengthen their understanding of the introductory biology course material and broaden their study strategies. Priority in enrollment will be given to students most likely to benefit from the small group work and emphasis on problem solving.

During the meeting times, students work together in groups on problems and extend, deepen and synthesize their understanding of the course material. Please see the course catalog and schedule for meeting times.

Here’s what prior students had to say about their experience:

...the SP course taught/encouraged me to look at biological concepts in a different way than I had before in high school.

SP helped me to learn what questions to ask, how to take the most effective notes, and other important study methods that will help me in future science courses....

...SP has given me an idea of what it really means to wrestle with the material in science courses at Swarthmore so you can master it. If anything, SP has helped me find out what I will need to do if I want to be successful in any future science courses at Swarthmore.

...SP is structured around flushing out the information that you know and the information that you don’t know.

SP offers a time to interact with the lecture material, allowing you to evaluate what you took from lecture and what you need to further understand.

Seeing and working with the same people at a regular time twice a week made me much more comfortable to speak freely and ask questions....

Speaking my ideas to the class really boosted my confidence...
Application
Please submit the completed application to Liz Vallen evallen1@swarthmore.edu by the end of pre-registration.

First name
Last name
Swarthmore email

1. Describe your motivation for taking BIOL 001 or 002.

2. Briefly describe your past experiences (positive and/or negative) and attitudes towards biology and biology classes.

3. Explain why you are interested in the Biology Scholars Program workshop.