

BIOLOGY Access Course



Aim

This course is intended to encourage you to develop your knowledge and understanding of biological principles.

Course Content

You will take several units of study:

Unit 1: Chemistry for Biology

This three credit unit is designed to provide you with a foundation for understanding of life processes, to underpin your study of biology. It also has great relevance to other healthcare professions and forensic science.

Unit 2: Cells

You will be introduced to the basics of cell theory, including key elements of chromosome structure, DNA replication and mitosis. This three credit unit will also include aspects of stem cells and organ systems.

Unit 3: Body Movement

In this three credit unit you will learn about the human musculoskeletal system and be able to identify major structural and functional characteristics of the human body. You will also focus on the ventilator and cardiovascular systems.

Unit 4: Digestion and Excretion

This three credit unit will enable you to understand the human digestive system, the key functions and how these relate to each other and play essential roles in metabolism, excretion and fluid balance.

Unit 5: Genes

You will look in more depth at mitosis and meiosis, so that you understand mutations, gene regulation and fundamental aspects of genetic engineering.

Unit 6: Genetics, Pathogens and Immunity

This unit develops further your learning in Unit 5, by focusing on the immune system and how it fights against pathogens. You will also learn about genetic mutations and be able to explain the molecular causes for certain human inherited conditions.

Unit 7: Biomolecules

In this unit you will learn to identify and explain the roles and functions of lipids, carbohydrates, proteins, enzymes and nucleic acids, which underpin molecular biology.

It would be useful to read about recent developments in biology and medical science, and watch documentaries or other programmes about biological issues. A GCSE biology textbook would give you a good understanding of appropriate topics and approaches.

Qualification Requirements in English and Maths

If you are aiming at progressing into higher education you will need to have English and Maths GCSEs at 4 – 9 for university entrance. If you do not already have these you will be enrolled as a part-time student on the Access course and you can take these alongside your Access course at no extra charge. You may take these in either the first or second year of your Access course. You may decide to take them both from your first year, so that you have a chance to re-take them if you do not achieve the required grades.

Hours:

The course is available either full-time (approx. 12 hours per week over three days for one year) or part-time (approx. 6 hours per week over one day for two years).

Examination Board

Laser Learning Awards

Qualifications

You will need a Level 4 in English and Maths or be willing to gain these on the Access course

When to Apply

You can apply at any time. Interviews are held from October to June and the course begins in September. At Interview we check that the course will suit your needs.

Subjects

You can find out more about Access subject options by visiting our website at www.stvincent.ac.uk under 'Higher Education' and 'Access to University'.

Child Care

There is a nursery at St Vincent College for babies and young children up to four years old, run by YMCA Fairthorne Manor. This is free for those on benefits.

Financial Support

Some support for your studies (eg books, stationery, travel) is available for most students on benefits.

Advice and Guidance

You will be able to consult our Careers and Higher Education Manager for impartial advice about university or careers.

For start dates and further information, contact:

St Vincent College, Mill Lane, Gosport PO12 4QA

Tel: 023 9258 8311

e-mail: info@stvincent.ac.uk

Web: www.stvincent.ac.uk