

CPB/MCB 91 (Introduction to Research)

The purpose of 91 is to introduce concentrators to laboratory research through direct participation in a research project. Students should expect to spend about two full days a week - or the equivalent - in the laboratory, with other shorter intervals as required by the type of experimental work. Because of the problems of doing research “part-time”, students should be aware of their obligations to the laboratory in which they work (see the [Student Handbook for Undergraduates in Life Sciences Research](#) and the handout on [Undergraduate Research in 91r and 99](#)).

Ordinarily CPB/MCB 91r is open only to concentrators, may be repeated once, and may not be taken as a fifth course. 91r is a letter graded course: the final grade for 91 is recommended by the faculty sponsor based on the student’s performance in the lab and the final paper.

Most students engaged in laboratory research work closely with a graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, or other member of the laboratory, but students should also schedule regular meetings - once or twice a month at minimum - with their faculty sponsor (ordinarily the PI of the lab) to discuss their progress.

REQUIRED SAFETY TRAINING

Before you begin working in the laboratory, ask your faculty sponsor, direct supervisor, and/or laboratory manager to add you to the lab’s safety training roster. They will recommend which safety training module(s) you should complete given the nature of your work in the lab. You must complete the online safety training before you begin working in the lab.

FINAL PAPER

Students are required to submit a short (5 - 10 pages) final paper in which they summarize the results of their experimental work, discuss their significance, and focus on “what to do next”. We will email instructions on how to submit the paper as the dates approach.

For the Fall 2016 semester, the final paper is due Wednesday, December 7th at 3 PM.

For the Spring 2017 semester, the final paper is due Wednesday, May 3rd at 3 PM.

ENROLLMENT

Enrolling in 91 is easy:

- Click [here](#) and fill out the required information prior to study card day.
- Ask your faculty sponsor, direct supervisor, or laboratory manager to add you to the lab’s safety training roster, and complete the safety training module(s) that are appropriate for the work you’re doing.
- If you are a CPB concentrator, add CPB 91 to your study card. If you are an MCB concentrator, add MCB 91 to your study card.
- Drop in during Marty Samuels’s [walk-in advising hours](#) to get the 91 slot on your study card signed - please do not have your faculty sponsor sign your study card. You do not need to make an appointment to get the 91 slot on your study card signed.
- Submit your study card to your house office by the deadline.
- 91 may not be taken as a fifth course.