

# The *Biology Student Handbook*

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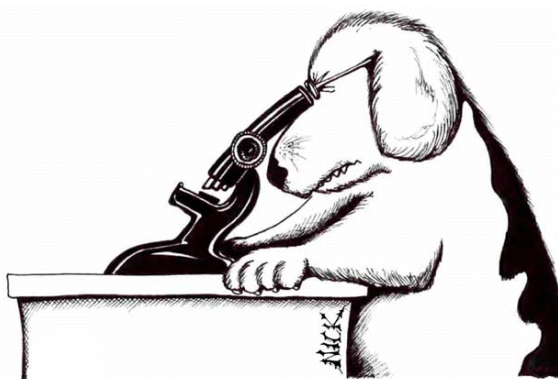
The goal of the *Biology Student Handbook* is to put many of the things that all North Central biology majors need in one place! Previously, information needed for several different courses, such as how to write a lab report or how to use some equipment, was printed in each course's individual lab manual or syllabus, so students had to buy the same material over and over. This volume brings as much of that information as possible into a single package.

The first section of the *Handbook* provides general information on major requirements, career preparation, departmental policies and using the resources that are available to you. It also includes details on how to write lab reports, draw graphs and work with numbers. You are responsible for knowing this information, and you will need to refer to it frequently in nearly all of your biology courses.

The second section provides specific details on how to use laboratory equipment and carry out commonly used lab procedures. Naturally, different courses will use different equipment and procedures; the *Handbook* attempts to cover only the most commonly used techniques. Many of the mistakes that students commonly make can be avoided by carefully reading and applying the information in this section.

In addition to this handbook, the Biology Department maintains a Web page which provides more information on the major and preparation for careers, lists of freely available online journals, links to educational resources and useful software, information about research opportunities and many other resources. Find it at [www.noctrl.edu/biology](http://www.noctrl.edu/biology)—and use it often!

Is there something you needed to know that's not in the *Handbook*? Please let us know: this is a work in progress, and our goal is to give *you* the information you need.



I'd never have figured this out  
without my Biology Student Handbook!