**Course Objectives:** BIOL 1120 focuses on the study of evolution, ecology, and the biological diversity of plants, animals, fungi, protists, and bacteria. Students should also gain an appreciation as well as a basic understanding of how planet Earth has changed over time.

**Learning Outcomes:** Issues in today’s world require scientific information and a scientific approach to informed decision making. Therefore, the goal of the Natural Science requirement is to guide students toward becoming scientifically literate. This scientific understanding gained in these courses enhances students’ ability to define and solve problems, reason with an open mind, think critically and creatively, suspend judgment, and make decisions that may have local or global significance.

*Students will demonstrate the ability to:*

1. Understand how fossils, molecular evidence, and geological time establish that organisms are related by common descent.
2. Understand the processes of natural selection and speciation.
3. Distinguish between the three domains of life (Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya) including specific characteristics of bacteria, plants, animals, fungi, and protists.
4. Describe the structural form of viruses and how they cause infection.
5. Understand how dissections of organisms allows for direct study of external and internal structures, including differences in physiological systems across animal phyla.
6. Characterizations of the following major animal phyla are emphasized in the course:

* Porifera, Cnidaria, Platyhelminthes, Syndermata, Mollusca, Annelida, Nematoda, Arthropoda, Echinodermata, and Chordata.

1. Gain an appreciation of general ecological terminology and principles.