

## Science Courses

### UCGE Proposal Criteria & Suggestions

The University of Idaho Faculty are invited to submit proposals for, or revisions to, the Scientific Ways of Knowing courses of the general education curriculum.

#### **SBOE Guidelines for General Education Science Courses:**

##### Definition:

A person who is competent in scientific reasoning adheres to a self-correcting system of inquiry (the scientific method) and relies on empirical evidence to describe, understand, and predict natural phenomena.

##### Competency and Knowledge Objective:

Upon completion of a non-lab course in this category, a student is able to demonstrate competencies i-iv. A student is able to demonstrate all five competencies, i-v, upon completion of a lab course.

1. Apply foundational knowledge and models of a discipline in the physical or natural sciences to analyze and/or predict phenomena.
2. Apply scientific reasoning to critically evaluate assertions.
3. Interpret and communicate scientific information via written, spoken and/or visual representations.
4. Describe the relevance of specific scientific principles to the human experience.
5. Test a hypothesis in the laboratory or field using discipline-specific tools and techniques for observation, data collection and analysis to form a defensible conclusion.

*Updated competencies approved by SBOE 10-21-2021*

#### **Proposals should consist of the following:**

- **Instructor:** Name and title of instructor.
- **Course Outline and Description:** In one to two pages, describe the course and its objectives and provide a course outline/syllabus. Please include a list of likely materials and activities included in the course and discuss how the course emphasizes and measures five SBOE competencies (above). Identify a specific signature learning activity or assignment (e.g., test, exam, written paper, oral presentation, collaborative project, poster, etc.) of the course that directly emphasizes and is integrated with more than one of the SBOE competencies that will be used to gauge student achievement. The course syllabus should also be included in the course proposal packet to supplement this information.
- **Department Support:** A signature line indicating department support for the course.

For assistance with the course proposal, contact:

Dean Panttaja, Director of General Education and Assessment at [panttaja@uidaho.edu](mailto:panttaja@uidaho.edu)  
or visit the General Education, Resources for Faculty page at:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/academics/general-education/faculty-advisor-information/faculty>

Revised 15 July 2022