

To: Students enrolled or waitlisted in Introduction to Natural Science (2009-10)
From: The faculty team – Krishna Chowdary, Clarissa Dirks and Lydia McKinstry

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY

The faculty team for Introduction to Natural Science: Life, the Universe, and Everything (INS) hopes that your summer is going well. This letter is intended to provide some initial program information regarding enrollments as well as information on the appropriate level of preparation and commitment we expect of you this coming year.

Enrollment: At the end of registration, we had full enrollment with a completely full wait list. Although our enrollment limit was originally listed as 72, we have decided to increase the class size. Our absolute upper limit, however, was dictated by available lab space. Our new enrollment limit is 96. The first program meeting is scheduled for ***Tuesday, September 29th at 8:30 AM***. All students, including those still on the waitlist, must attend this meeting. Failure to do so will result in you being dropped from the program! The information contained in this letter and other program announcements will also be available on our program web page, which we will continue to update throughout the summer (<http://academic.evergreen.edu/curricular/ins0910>).

Program Information: Introduction to Natural Science is designed to be taught as an integrated introduction to biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Scientific concepts will build on each other over the entire year, so it is in your best interest to enroll in the program for all three quarters. We'll integrate the study of these subjects through all three quarters, though in fall, our work (especially our hands-on lab work) will revolve around chemistry topics, while in winter, it will revolve around biology topics. For this reason, students will gain the most benefit by remaining enrolled in the program for a minimum of two quarters. If you are currently enrolled in our program and intend to only take it for one quarter, we ask that you consider enrolling in another program.

Introduction to Natural Science is a program aimed at students who take their learning seriously. Students who simply want exposure to science will find this program quite demanding and should consult the faculty before the fall quarter. Standards are high and the workload is intensive. Our weekly schedule (see below) will include lectures, workshops, laboratories and seminars. We will place heavy emphasis on collaboration and teamwork, and advise you to form study groups outside of class at the beginning of the fall quarter. **Well prepared students should expect to spend a minimum of 30 hours each week outside class meetings on program work.**

Tentative Weekly Schedule – Fall:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
NO CLASS ON MONDAYS	8:30-10:00 Lecture	8:30-9:30 Lecture	8:30-10:00 Lecture	8:30-12:00 Lab/Workshop
	10:30-12:30 Workshop	10:00-12:00 Seminar	10:30-12:00 Lecture	
	1:30-2:30 Lecture		1:00-5:00 Tutoring	1:00-4:30 Lab/Workshop
	3:00-5:00 Workshop			

Please consider the following points:

- You must honestly determine if you are prepared to undertake this program. Our main prerequisite is high school algebra; some biology and chemistry would be helpful but not required.
- Students who do not have adequate algebra skills often struggle in this program. To aid you in determining your level of preparation we will administer a Math Diagnostic on the first day of class. This Math Diagnostic will also provide guidance for the faculty team so that we can be more effective in helping you succeed in the program. In a follow-up summer letter, we will provide sample questions for you to assess your level of preparation.

Books & Supplies:

- S. Freeman "Biological Science", 3rd ed., Benjamin Cummings, ISBN 9780321543271
- T. E. Brown, H. E. LeMay, B. E. Bursten "Chemistry: The Central Science", 11th ed., Prentice Hall, ISBN 9780136006176
- E. Connally "Functions Modeling Change: A Preparation for Calculus", 3rd ed., Wiley, ISBN 9780471793021 (hard-cover) or 9780471793038 (soft-cover)
- <http://www.lightandmatter.com/books.html>
- Scientific Calculator - You will need a scientific calculator, i.e. one that performs exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. You do NOT need a graphing calculator for this program, but you may use one if you prefer.
- Ruler - We will use rulers on a regular basis. Make sure you have one that has metric units.

Note: The first three textbooks will be available at the bookstore. You may also purchase them elsewhere. If you choose to purchase these textbooks elsewhere, be careful to purchase the editions listed above, since the topics and problems change in each edition. These textbooks will be used all year. We will also use additional books and readings that will be announced at a later date.

If, after reviewing this letter, you do not feel prepared to take this program, we suggest that you strengthen your background with additional math course, and take INS next year. Introduction to Natural Science is offered every year at Evergreen.

If you believe that you have both adequate preparation and commitment to take this program, then we look forward to seeing you in the fall. It is not our intention to scare you away from this program; we simply want to make sure students are in a program appropriate for their level of preparation and commitment. Many students who have taken INS have expressed their opinion that it was one of their most fulfilling college experiences.

We anticipate that 2009-10 will be an exciting year; come prepared to work hard, learn a great deal, and actually have some fun! Enjoy the remainder of your summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,

The INS Faculty Team:
Krishna Chowdary
Clarissa Dirks
Lydia McKinstry

June 2009