

May 28, 2019

Dear Parent(s),

We are delighted to welcome you and your student to the Saint Leo University community! The Department of Mathematics and Sciences faculty and staff are thrilled that your student has chosen to pursue an undergraduate degree in biology at Saint Leo University. Biology is our most popular major on campus but it is also among the most challenging disciplines to pursue. Students often find that the study habits that worked for them in high school are insufficient to realize the high grades they are aiming for in college level biology coursework. In addition, many of our students have dreams of attending medical school, graduate school, law school, pharmacy school, and other professional programs. Earning a seat at these programs has never been as competitive as it is today. To help our students realize their academic and professional goals we have established Biology Boot Camp, a pre-semester primer geared at helping our new students better adapt to the demands of undergraduate learning, and guiding them to success.

The Biology Boot Camp is a rigorous, non-credit bearing academic program designed to enhance our new and incoming students' success in the biology major. The program will occur the week before the fall semester begins and is an all-inclusive experience immersing students in college life and college-level biology coursework. The curriculum of the program includes content lectures and test experiences that will help students apply new study skills immediately in real time. To simulate the time constraints of a real college schedule, the students' days will be packed full of activities, lectures, and workshops addressing study skills and student life discussions led by our faculty, staff, counselors, current biology students, and recent biology alumni. Students will become embedded in campus life and have an early opportunity to become familiar with residence hall living, the dining hall, and the layout of campus all before the upper level students return to campus. Students will also begin to forge important friendships among fellow biology majors. The end-result is a well-rounded program that allows students a sneak peek at college life and course work at Saint Leo.

All new, incoming biology students at Saint Leo University are invited to participate in the Biology Boot Camp. This year's session will be held Friday, August 9th, through Thursday, August, 15. Registration is available at <https://www.saintleo.edu/camp-biology>, with a deadline of July 15th. Due to the typically high interest in this Boot Camp, and the large size of the incoming class, we will be limiting attendance to the first 75 students who complete the registration process.

Although not required, the Biology Boot Camp is highly recommended for incoming first year biology students. In addition to the benefits already mentioned, this year our Boot Camp will include 5 quantitative sessions designed to review essential quantitative skills that will be utilized in the first semester biology course, BIO125, and which were assessed

in the math placement exam taken during the summer. As you may already know, BIO125 Biological Principles I, holds a math placement/prerequisite of Basic Algebra (MAT003). Students not meeting this criterion upon entering Saint Leo must delay enrollment in BIO125 until this prerequisite is met. Because we understand that students often score higher on assessments following review of key concepts, we have both built this review into our Boot Camp program and are offering all of our Boot Camp students the opportunity to be assessed on math skills at the end of Boot Camp.

We are confident you will agree that the essential skills and opportunities that the Biology Boot Camp provides will be an invaluable component of your student's undergraduate career. We look forward to working with him/her as he/she progresses through the Biology Program. Once again, welcome to Saint Leo University!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Altfeld".

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