

## **Student Learning in Non-Major Biology Courses**

Non-major undergraduate students can enroll in several courses offered by the Biology Department. Four courses have been approved to help students meet the university's General Education requirement for a life sciences course with laboratory. Three courses are open to all majors:

**Biology 1070**- Survey of Biology I (plant focus)

**Biology 1080**-Survey of Biology II (animal focus) (required for nursing majors)

**Biology 1300** Introduction to Urban Environmental Science

Students enrolled in an Education major are required to take **Biology 1510- Biology Concepts** (plant focus) that includes topics aligned with standards for teaching science to children in K-12 grades.

Our goal in each of these courses is to help students develop literacy about biological concepts while experiencing scientific practices. Success in meeting this goal is measured in different ways by each instructor. Instructors include regular formative assessments that guide instructors in how they might alter or supplement their lessons to support the needs of all students. Summative assessments are also used and include quizzes and exams as well as performance-based instruments such as laboratories and presentations.

### **Standardized Assessment Plans for Biology 1070 and 1080**

Biology 1070 and 1080

experimental design and interpretation. Students are also given a *multiple choice pre and post test*, but instead of assessing knowledge of several biology concepts, the test focuses on evolution and natural selection. Evolution is a major theme of the 1080 course and students are given the option to visit the Field Museum's