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September 5th, 2024

Dr. Kelly May
Academic Dean for Online Learning
kmay@herzing.edu
Herzing University
275 W Wisconsin Ave
Suite 210
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Dear Dr. May,

I am writing to formally request an appeal and revaluation of my Registrar Transfer Credit Evaluation regarding the denial of credit for Microbiology. I respectfully submit that denial based on a "lab" component requirement, is unwarranted considering the nature of the online simulation used in lieu of a traditional laboratory experience.

While I understand the importance of practical application in scientific fields, I believe that an online simulation, even one as robust as Labster, does not equate to the depth and complexity of an actual laboratory environment. Nor does this practical component rise to the definition of Herzing University's "laboratory instructional setting: a *minimum of 30 instructional hours of laboratory is required to award one semester credit hour. It is expected that for each hour that a student spends in a laboratory, the average student will spend an additional half-hour outside of the classroom engaged in additional learning activities that contribute to the achievement of the course learning objectives.*

Throughout my academic career at Georgia State University, I successfully completed over 20 credit hours of laboratory coursework, totaling more than 300 hours of hands-on experience in state-of-the-art science labs. This extensive laboratory experience, I believe, demonstrates proficiency far beyond the capabilities of any simulation.

I acknowledge that the semester is underway; however, I was unable to fully grasp the Labster component course requirements until September 4th, and did not commence the practical component until September 5th.

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I sincerely apologize that I was not able to bring to your attention until today, however in addition to not having known about the “lab component” format, I have yet to receive a copy of my Registrar Transfer Credit Evaluation despite multiple email requests since its completion. I believe a review of this document would be beneficial in understanding the rationale behind the credit denial.

If necessary I am prepared to audit the course, take a proficiency exam or PLA, and/or provide attestation of my practical workplace experience as it pertains to infection control, microbial research, etc. to further demonstrate my proficiency; however, I am confident that my academic and professional background substantially exceeds the scope of Labster’s capabilities.

As a low income student, I am not in a position to expend approximately $3,000 on a computer program that, as a virtual simulation, is only able to quiz me on procedures readily available for reference during actual laboratory research. Moreover, dedicating eight weeks to reviewing lecture material I have already mastered is neither financially feasible nor conducive to my nursing career progression.

I submit that the time and money required to retake Microbiology would be much better spent advancing in my academic program, tackling information that I am not yet familiar with.

I have attached supplementary information for your review, including a comparison of GSU and Herzing University course catalogs, a summary of my completed coursework (the registrar received my official transcript directly so I do not have access to it), and details of the equivalent Microbiology course I successfully completed.

Please note that this course did include "practical components," as stated in the Herzing University catalog description of SC 166, and was specifically designed for healthcare professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I look forward to a favorable resolution.

Sincerely,

Chavon Wright

Chavon J Wright

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Catalog Description Comparisons

Herzing University
SC166 HU Catalog
SC 166 - Microbiology - Enrolled
Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
Prerequisites: None. Corequisites: None.

- This course provides an introduction to the study of microorganisms. It covers normal microbiota and pathogenic microbes. Select topics include function, metabolism, genetics, growth, and relationships to humans and the environment. Topics related to human infectious diseases include transmission, host defense mechanisms, growth processes, and the spread of infectious agents. **This course also includes a practical component.**

Contact Hours: 30/30/0/60

Georgia State University
Biol 2300 GSU Catalog
BIOL 2300 - Microbiology and Public Health - Completed
Semester Credit Hours 3.00
Prerequisites: one year each of high school biology and chemistry recommended.

- An introduction to infectious disease agents of significance in individual and community health settings. The characteristics, symptoms, diagnosis, control, and treatment of infectious diseases will be considered. The course is designed primarily for students who intend to enter one of the health professions.

Georgia State University
BIOL 2310 - Microbiology and Public Health **Laboratory**
1 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 2300 with a grade of D or higher, or concurrently.
Requirements: Includes a $50 lab fee.

Description
Basic laboratory techniques for culture and identification of microbes. Three laboratory hours a week.

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Audit (Summary) of Related Coursework; Retrieved from Unofficial Transcript

Major and Department: Biological Science , Biology

Please Note: Every course with a "K" following the course number includes a laboratory requirement totalling the same number of weekly credit hours as the lecture.
For example Chem 1151K is worth 4.000 Credit Hours meaning student's are concurrently enrolled in both 4.000 lecture hours and 4.000 laboratory hours per week for a full 15 week long semester

Subject	Course	Title	Grade	Credit Hours
CHEM	**1151K**	Survey of Chemistry	D	4.000
CHEM	1201	Chemistry I Concept Development	A	1.000
CHEM	1203	Chemistry II Concept Development	A	1.000
CHEM	1211	General Chemistry I	B-	4.000
CHEM	**1212K**	Principles of Chemistry II	B-	1.000
CHEM	2400	Organic Chemistry I		
CHEM	**3100**	Organic Chemistry Lab I	B	2.000
CHEM 3100 - Organic Chemistry Laboratory I 2.000 Credit hours Prerequisites: Chem 1212K with grade of C or higher, and concurrent enrollment in Chem 2400. One lecture and 3.5 laboratory hours a week. Modern quantitative and physical laboratory methods applied to the synthesis, separation, purification, identification, and the physical and chemical properties of organic compounds.				
BIOL	**2107K**	Principles of Biology I	C	4.000
BIOL	**2108K**	Principles of Biology II	B	4.000
BIOL	**2300**	**Microbiology & Public Health**	**C**	**3.000**
BIOL	3020	Introduction to Marine Biology	C	3.000
BIOL	3440	Fundamentals of Evolution	B-	3.000
BIOL	3840	Animal Biology	C	3.000
BIOL	4930	Topics in Biology - Entomology	B	4.000
BIOL	4930	Topics in Biology -	C+	4.000
PHYS	**1111K**	Introductory Physics I	C	4.000
HHS	2010	Medical Terminology for Healthcare	C	3.000

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Relevant Website Links	
Academic Calendar	Herzing University
Archived Biology Coursework Catalog	Georgia State University
Chemistry Courses for Science Majors Detailed descriptions of the objectives and prerequisites of each course are available in the Department of Chemistry. The student is urged to consult these descriptions if there is any doubt about requirements or qualifications. Laboratory courses and courses on principles are designed to be mutually reinforcing. The laboratory is the real basis for the science, but the lecture courses are designed to speed the learning process. The two parts are separated only to provide added flexibility in scheduling and to meet individual needs, particularly for transfer students. Great care should be exercised in scheduling one course without the other.	
Experiential Learning Clinical Policy	Herzing University
Archived Full Coursework Catalog	Georgia State University
Transfer of Credit and Prior Learning Assessment	Herzing University
Withdrawals from Individual Course	Herzing University
Supplemental Peer Reviewed Studies	
Effects of Hands-On Experiences on Student Achievement, Interest, and Attitude in Chemistry Interest, and Attitude in Chemistry	Stephen F. Austin State University Stephen F. Austin State University
Physical Experience Enhances Science Learning	University of Chicago