

Draft Learning Objectives for *Exploring the Life Sciences*

A. Students should know:

1. The scientific method as it relates to the life sciences
2. The strengths, limits, and relevance of science.
3. The mechanisms of heredity: Mendelian and molecular
4. The concept of homeostasis: metabolism, regulation, behavior
5. The interplay of structure and function.
6. Evolutionary theory.
7. The diversity of life.
8. Human nature.
9. Ecosystems.

B. Students should be able to:

1. Apply their knowledge to a contemporary issue.
2. Apply the scientific method to a scientific question.
3. Articulate the various positions on the origins of life.

C. Students should value/commit to:

1. The breadth of creation.
2. Stewardship of resources.
3. Differences.
4. Bioethics broadly defined.

Notes and observations from the GE Committee: (Nov. 8, 2007)

A.1,2 There is no need to assess these separately. When the assessment is devised for B.1,2, it should cover these topics in part A as well.

A.3-6 These seem to be questions of basic literacy that most likely can be addressed by identifying pre-existing questions in exams. We may want to modify the questions to make cross-course comparisons simpler.

A.7,8 The committee was not sure what is intended here.