Required Bio Called a Success

By Hfung Lu

Students and professors consider the new institute requirement in biology a success.

The new policy requires students, beginning with the class of 1997, to pass an introductory biology class. There are three variations of Introductory Biology: 7.012, 7.013, and 7.014. The focus of each class differs slightly.

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"It's basically the same in terms of development and processes," he said. "I think it's pretty good. It expands your knowledge," said August W. Chang '97.

 Requirement broadens education

Most students agree that the biology requirement is a sign in the right direction, giving students a broader education. The requirement adds to the core curriculum that all undergraduate students must complete. The General Institute Requirements include subjects in physics, chemistry, and calculus, as well as the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

The biology requirement is "a really good idea because it gives you more balance in the core requirements," said Kelly M. Hertig '97. "You get a better picture of the sciences ... and biology is a field that has grown a lot," she said.

"It helps us get more of a background and a different perspective by taking a different science," said Victor M. Aguilar '97.

Stephanie A. Jenrette '97 added that a requirement forces students to experience subjects that they do not like. "Physics is required, and I hate physics, but I still learned things," she said.

Variations differ in content

All three introductory biology courses cover the common core material of biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, and cell biology. White said the differences between the courses are in the focus and direction each takes.

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