

Appendix 2

Student Anecdotal Feedback

Question: *Please send me back any feedback you think would be useful for next year's freshmen, what did we do right, what could we have done better, was BIOS worth a week of your summer in hindsight?*

1. Hi! It is funny to get your email today because I was telling my friend about the class and how much it helped. We just had our first exam on chapters one through six and I made a 98 on it. I could not have done that with out attending the Bios program. I used my notes to help study and I could focus more on the details because I already had a general idea of what was going on. I could even help other people in the class. It helped to get a feel for college before it really counted and to see what the exams were like. I would recommend continuing the program next year. I feel that it was really worth my time. Thanks for the opportunity.
2. BIOS was well worth a week of my summer. Not only did I feel confident on the first exam, but was much less stressed my first few weeks in school because I already had the notes and understood the material for one of my classes. I realize that BIOS put me ahead of many of the students who did not attend the program; this allowed me to help them, which in turn helped me grasp the material even further. Most important, was that I made some really great friends at BIOS. Actually a good majority of my friends I either met at BIOS or met through someone from BIOS. It's a great opportunity to learn and meet people who are as serious about learning as you are. I really feel that if I had not attended your program I would not love LSU as much as I do.
3. In hindsight, I really enjoyed BIOS. I liked the way you put us in groups with people in our Bio lectures and labs. BIOS really helped to prepare me for my biology course.
4. I have to say that it helped me out a lot. Knowing people in my Biology class was great, and I actually have most of my science classes with other students from BIOS. I have 'aced' all of my first exams, which I give BIOS credit for, because I used the study and learning strategies provided by the Center for Academic Success. Learning the beginning chapters in Biology helped me significantly! Being comfortable with LSU's campus also helped me to know where I was! BIOS is a great program that should be continued! Thanks again,
5. After the first Intro Bio exam, I am positive that BIOS was worthwhile. I have felt prepared and comfortable with the material in 1201 since the first day and have your program to thank. The study tips, orientation, and early exposure to college biology have truly proved to be extremely helpful and I appreciate all of your efforts over the summer! Thanks again,
6. I definitely think that Bios was worth my time, especially after receiving A's on all of my first exams, not just Biology. I find just knowing a little bit about the information before hand helps out a lot even though I have a Biology teacher with a completely

different style of teaching. I also found the study skills area of the program helpful because I hate to say it, but they really do work. They take a lot of the pressure off of studying so much information. The only parts of Bios I may have to complain about are: a) the group study sessions until 9:00, b) the lack of variety in our lunchtime menu, c) order size small t-shirts. Good Luck with next year!

7. I think that BIOS has really helped me so far. Not only did it help me with Biology, but it also has helped with other classes. I am taking notes better than in high school. I also use the studying strategies I learned in the program. The only thing that could have been better were some of the speakers said the same thing. Other than that, BIOS was a really good experience, and I am really glad I participated in it.

8. The bios program was amazing. It made the first test a lot easier and kind of broke the ice between the transfer from high school to college. I feel like the course is almost a must for biology majors and I am sure it also helps the other majors as well. Thank you so much for the experience and helping me get a 98 on my first college test.

9. Sorry about the delay, but here it is, better late than never I guess. I want to start by saying that by far the best thing I got out of BIOS initially was something y'all didn't even advertise: I met people before I started college. The first week was enormously stressful and it helped immensely already having friends from BIOS, as well as a friend from home, to fall back on. To this day, over half way through the semester, some of my best friends are the ones I made at BIOS. Just as a quick example, I ate lunch with two of them today, my old roommate and a group-mate. I guess there's something about 3 of Dr. Wischusen's test in a week that tends to bring people together. My grades have also been much higher than they would have been without. The jump on the biology work gave me that much less to worry about while transitioning to college life, and is currently my highest grade at a 97.7. The skills learned at BIOS have also transferred well to other classes, even if only at times it tells me I'm not doing well in a class.

10. I can't think of much in the way of improvement, although perhaps losing one of the later 'being a student' sessions in place of a little downtime, not so much for a break, but for a bit of socialization/study time. Plus, the sessions towards the end seemed to get a bit repetitive and got harder and harder to pay attention to. The initial ones were great, though, giving useful information that I still use (or forget to and soon regret it). All in all, I'd say it was definitely worth my week of summer. I must admit, I went to BIOS mostly on my father's suggestion and was not looking forward to giving up one of my final weeks of summer before college life began, but all in all, I'm glad I did.

11. BIOS did me very well. With Bio II AP and BIOS I felt very comfortable, perhaps too comfortable, with the material presented. Everyone I talked to aced it because of BIOS and I found it easy as well. I really wouldn't change much of anything, other than the minor detail that entropy and all are covered in the Unit 2 test part and perhaps you could substitute that information with more information for unit 1 test so they do even better? No complaints, thank you.

12. I definitely think BIOS was worth a week of my summer. I aced my first exam. The material on the exam was basically review of what BIOS had covered during that one week. I just feel a bit uneasy about my upcoming exam; I don't feel as if I know the material as well as I did for the first exam. I know that the reason is because this is new material in much more detail. The point I'm trying to make is that most BIOS participants may feel as if they may have some room to slack off a bit because he or she may have performed well on the first exam. However, I don't want students to feel as if they won't have to study for the upcoming exams. Who knows...grades may drop as a result of this "overconfidence"? But, as long as students adhere to the intense study sessions like Dr. McGuire suggested; I don't think they'll have this problem. BIOS was extremely helpful to me, and I am very satisfied with the results based on my performance of my first exam. I will wait and see how this second exam goes in order to see if BIOS study tips have helped as well.

13. BIOS was well worth the time. Since classes have started, work has been piling up, but because I went to BIOS and learned so much there, I was able to spend more time studying and doing work for other classes. I was still studying for Biology but not as long as I had to for other classes. The tips for studying really helped and it seems to be working really well for all my classes. The schedule was organized very well. The thing that I noticed being the least beneficial were the group study sessions. If the point was to demonstrate the benefit of group study sessions, then that did not come across that great. Many people left to study on their own leaving only a few people in the study session. Besides that, everything else was well worth it and I am glad that I went.

14. I was very pleased with the program and am so glad that I attended. Just being able to recognize and recall the information we were learning in class was a big help. The study tips have also helped and I have been trying to stick to what we were taught. Also some of the sessions we had gave very useful information that I sometimes forget we had the advantage of learning until a friend says that they are clueless about where to go if they need help or something like that. I can't think of anything right now to improve the program, but if I do I will be sure to email you my thoughts. I am so appreciative you all did this program and I know others will find it useful in the future.

15. I thought the BIOS program was a great opportunity to learn the material that is taught in BIOL 1201. I learned a lot of material in that short of time which most of it ended up being on my first test. I thought the BIOS program was well worth the time and effort. Even though I knew the material for the first test, and studied a whole lot, I made a 66 on it. I knew the information really good, but the questions confused me on what they were asking. Some of the material on the test I had never seen before. It was not in the lectures notes, so I guess he got them from the book. Next time I will study my

lectures notes and the book. On a bright note, I made a 93 on my first chemistry test and a 100 on my second chemistry test. I also have an "A" in BIOL 1208.