

POLICY MEMORANDUM

Entomology Student Seminar (ENT 601/801)

ENT 601/801 – The student seminar program provides an opportunity to keep current in entomology and explore some topics or subdisciplines in greater depth than is available in a formal course. The objectives of the course are: (1) to provide an experience in preparing and presenting an oral discourse on an assigned topic, either formally or informally, (2) to provide ample time for class discussion, (3) to present the semester's topics with logical continuity, and (4) to provide timely and constructive feedback on the presentations.

Guidelines:

1. ENT 601/801 – Student seminar is in the format of a student group organized to discuss a series of topics within a particular area of an entomological subdiscipline. Seminars are usually held for 50 minutes each week in a place and at a time arranged by the instructor(s) and students. Longer time periods can be arranged if **all** registered students can participate. An S or U grade and one hour's credit is given for each semester of student seminar satisfactorily completed. B-quality or better work (based upon quality of presentation, adequacy of discussion participation, and attendance record) is required for a grade of S. Students are required to attend each session unless excused by the instructor(s).
2. M.S. students are required to take 2 semesters of student seminar, and Ph.D. students are required to take 3 semesters. The department head and graduate administrator monitor all graduate plans of work to ensure that the required number of seminars is shown. In preparing graduate plans of work, seminars should be shown by number only, however, topic titles will appear on grade transcripts which are the documents seen by potential employers.
3. Two student seminars are normally given each semester (designated ENT 601A/801A, ENT 601B/801B, etc.), and if desired, both may be taken to meet the ENT 601/801 requirements. Faculty members of the department are expected to have a role in the organization and presentation of a student seminar at least once in each 4-year rotational cycle. Normally, seminar themes are not recycled in less than a 4-year period. However, more than 2 seminars in a semester and/or recycling of a specific seminar in less than 4 years can be scheduled if the number of students and their interest are sufficiently great to justify such arrangements. In addition, the department head has the flexibility to change the seminar topics as circumstances might necessitate.
4. The department head works with the faculty to establish their participation in the seminar series and annually updates the schedule accordingly. This participation can be alone or cooperatively with others. Students are expected to consult with their major professor before actually pre-registering for a specific student seminar.

5. Topics within the seminar theme and other policy matters are usually discussed and assigned to student participants during the first class meeting. The general format of a seminar is flexible, however, each registered student is expected to give one in-depth discourse on an assigned topic during the semester. When possible, the topics presented during the semester should be organized in a logical continuity. The format also should include an opportunity for each presenter to receive timely and constructive feedback on his/her performance. The remaining time in the semester, if any, will be devoted to other learning activities developed by the professor that involve the students and address the selected topics. All students should expect weekly reading assignments and should actively participate in class discussions.