

Dear INS Student,

We are writing because you have registered for the Introduction to Natural Science: The Structure of Life (INS). Welcome to the program. We look forward to meeting you in September. We are busy planning what we hope will be a well integrated study of the mechanisms and structure of life from biological, chemical and mathematical perspectives. We have a variety of activities planned, including lectures, field trips, labs, workshops and seminar discussions. We expect that the weekly schedule will be full and demanding, but we will provide the support and resources that hard working students need to be successful. Our first class meeting is on September 24th at 9:00 am. It is important that you be on time for this meeting, as we have a long wait list and will be giving priority to students who are there.

Given the length of the wait list for this program, we would like to make sure that students registered for INS have carefully considered whether it is the right program for them. INS is an interdisciplinary program. The purpose is to explore ideas and connections between biology, chemistry and mathematics as a preparation for future study in the sciences. Although the program is introductory we will cover a lot of ground in a year and will expect students to apply themselves equally in all areas. A student who has an interest in only one of these disciplines will probably not be happy in this program. We recommend that all students review their algebra skills before the start of class. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

We have a class website where we will post information about the class (<http://academic.evergreen.edu/curricular/ins>). Currently there is a tentative schedule and a supply list. Textbooks will be available in the college bookstore, but they are also available on-line for cheaper. If you order your textbook on-line make sure you get the correct edition. There is also an on-line survey that we would like you to complete before the start of class, We will be adding suggestions for readings and review work that will help you be prepared for the start of term, so please check the website regularly for updates.

All the best,

Clarissa Dirks
David McAvity
Jim Neitzel