

Biology 121 Grading Methodology

Your grade is based on the number of total points you have earned for: 1. Your scores on the mid-term examinations (130 pts.); 2. Sample essays submitted before each exam (5 pts each); 3. short essay information improvement points (to be discussed after the first mid-term exam); 3. Three narratives from notes (5 pts each); and (4) Optional Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) assignment (20 pts). Points earned for sample essays and essay improvement are not used to generate the grading curve but are added to your score afterwards.

Mid-term I	Sample essays	5 points total	5 (not included in calculating curve)
	Multiple choice	55 @ 2 pts each	110
	Short Essay questions	2 @ 5 pts each	10
	Exam total	Total possible	120
Mid-term II	Sample essays	5 points total	5 (not included in calculating curve)
	Multiple choice	55 @ 2 pts each	110
	Short Essay questions	2 @ 5 pts each	10
	Exam total	Total possible	120
Mid-term III	Sample essays	5 points total	5 (not included in calculating curve)
	Multiple choice	65 @ 2 pts each	130
	Short Essay questions	2 @ 5 pts each	10
	Exam total	Total possible	140
News Analysis Assignment		1 @ 10 pts	10
Narratives of notes		3 @ 5 pts each	15
Total Graded Points Possible			410 (not including sample essays; CMA)
CMA Assignments* OPTIONAL		2 @ 10 pts each	*20 (not included in calculating curve)

1. Points earned on exams and "sample" essays
2. Essay improvement points (points added to original exam grade, not included in curve)
 - Mid-term I: re-write one answer for improvement and answer one additional question
 - Mid-term II: answer one additional question
3. Narratives of notes
4. News Analysis
5. Cabrillo Aquarium Assignment (*optional)

Example of examination grading grid (not actual curve - example only)

Grade	Mid-term I	Mid-term II	Mid-term III	Exam Pts.	Additional Graded Assignments	Graded Points Curve	Points from sample essays, re-writes of essays	Total Points Grade
A	110	110	110	330	41 (90% of 45 possible)	371	15 plus	
B	100	100	100	300	36 (80% of 45 poss.)	336	15 plus	
C	90	90	90	270	32 (70% of 45 poss.)	302	15 plus	
UGH	80	80	80	240	27 (60% of 45 poss.)	267	15 plus	

- 1. Scores above in grid are the minimum points values for each grade**
2. A curve is generated for each exam; additional assignments are on a straight percentage as per above
3. Points from multiple choice and short essays are added for each of your mid-term grades
4. The number of points for each grade is tallied in the last column - your grade is based on your total points