

## BCS Comprehensive Exam

### Reflective Essay

**Please return your essay to Professor Schnurr by 5/1/15 to fulfill your comprehensive exam.**

These questions address the major goals that we have for the BCS majors. We want to know how well we are fulfilling each goal, or if we are failing at any point. Please answer each question thoughtfully because we will use your responses to assess how well we are doing as a department.

1. List all the courses that you have taken as a BCS major. Would you say that these courses provided you with the opportunity and the guidance to learn the fundamental principles of biology and/or chemistry? How about how these two fields integrate with each other? Please explain, using examples when appropriate.
2. Identify a project or projects where you needed to practice the process of science – planning, executing, evaluating and communicating (in both writing and orally). Explain what you did, and how it helped you to develop as a scientist.
3. Was there ever a course (or courses) where you had to understand the importance of diversity in the practice of science through collaborative learning, where different perspectives were valued and evaluated? Please explain, citing examples as appropriate.
4. Do you think we challenged you to think critically and quantitatively in evaluating data, and to apply that skill to issues arising in the world around you, including ethical conflicts surrounding particular scientific theories, technologies, or applications? Please explain, citing examples as appropriate.
5. Finally, is there anything else that you think that we did well throughout your time as a BCS student, or is there anything you expected to do/learn that you didn't? Please be honest so that we can change if necessary!