

Bioscene: Journal of College Biology Teaching

Submission Guidelines

I. Submissions to *Bioscene*

Bioscene: Journal of College Biology Teaching is a refereed publication of the Association of College and University Biology Educators (ACUBE). *Bioscene* is published online only in May and in print in December. Submissions should reflect the interests of the membership of ACUBE. Appropriate submissions include:

- **Articles:** Course and curriculum development, innovative and workable teaching strategies that include **some type of assessment** of the impact of those strategies on student learning.
- **Innovations:** Laboratory and field studies that work, innovative and money-saving techniques for the lab or classroom. These do not ordinarily include assessment of the techniques' effectiveness on student learning.
- **Perspectives:** Reflections on general topics that include philosophical discussion of biology teaching and other topical aspects of pedagogy as it relates to biology.
- **Reviews:** Web site, software, and book reviews
- **Information:** Technological advice, professional school advice, and funding sources
- **Letters to the Editor:** Letters should deal with pedagogical issues facing college and university biology educators

II. Preparation of Articles, Innovations and Perspectives

Submissions can vary in length, but articles should be between 1500 and 5000 words in length. This includes references and tables, but excludes figures. Authors must number all pages and lines of the document in sequence. This includes the abstract, but not figure or table legends. Concision, clarity, and originality are desirable. Topics designated as acceptable as articles are described above. The formats for all submissions are as follows:

- A. **Abstract:** The first page of the manuscript should contain the title of the manuscript, the names of the authors and institutional addresses, a brief abstract (200 words or less) or important points in the manuscript, and keywords in that order.
- B. **Manuscript Text:** The introduction to the manuscript begins on the second page. It should supply sufficient background for readers to appreciate the work without referring to previously published references dealing with the subject. Citations should be reports of credible scientific or pedagogical research.

The body follows the introduction. Articles describing some type of research should be broken into sections with appropriate subheadings including Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion. Some flexibility is permitted here depending upon the type of article being submitted. Articles describing a laboratory or class exercise that works should be broken into sections following the introduction as procedure, assessment, and discussion.

Acknowledgment of any financial support or personal contributions should be made at the end of the body in an Acknowledgement section, with financial acknowledgements preceding personal acknowledgements. If the study required institutional approval such as an Institutional Review Board (IRB), the approval or review number should be included in this section. For example, this study was approved under the IRB number 999999. The editor will delete disclaimers and endorsements (government, corporate, etc.)

A variety of writing styles can be used depending upon the type of article. Active voice is encouraged whenever possible. Past tense is recommended for descriptions of events that occurred in the past such as methods, observations, and data collection. Present tense can be used for your conclusions and accepted facts. Because *Bioscene* has readers from a variety of biological specialties, authors should avoid extremely technical language and define all specialized terms. Other than heading titles, the first word in a sentence or a proper noun, authors should not use capitalization, underlining, italics, or boldface within the text. Authors should not add extra spaces or indentations, nor should they use any hidden from view editing tools. All weights and measures must be given in the SI (metric) system.

In- text citations should be done in the following manner:

Single Author:

"... when fruit flies were reared on media of sugar, tomatoes, and grapes" (Jaenike, 1986).

Two Authors:

“...assay was performed as described previously (Roffner & Danzig, 2004).

Multiple Authors:

“...similar results have been reported previously (Baehr et al., 1999).

- C. References: References cited within the text should appear alphabetically by the author's last name at the end of the manuscript text under the heading references. All references must be cited in the text and come from published materials in the literature or the Internet. Authors should use the current APA style when formatting the reference list.

- D. Example citations are below.

(1) Articles-

(a) Single author:

DEBURH, L.E. (1991). Using *Lemna* to study geometric population growth. *American Biology Teacher*, 53(4): 229-32.

(b) Multi-authored three to seven authors:

GREEN, H., GOLDBERG, B., SHWARTZ, M., & D. BROWN. (1968). The synthesis of collagen during the development of *Xenopus laevis*. *Developmental Biology*, 18: 391-400.

Mutli-authored more than seven authors

List the first six authors than an ellipsis followed by the last author.

(2) Books-

BOSSSEL, H. 1994. *Modeling and Simulation*. A.K. Peters, London. 504p.

(3) Book chapters-

GLASE, J.C., AND M. ZIMMERMAN. 1991. Population ecology: experiments with Protistans. In Beiwenger, J.M. 1993. *Experiments to Teach Ecology*. Ecological Society of America, Washington, D.C. 170p.

(4) Web sites-

MCKELVEY, S. 1995. Malthusian Growth Model. Accessed from <http://www.stolaf.edu/people/mckelvey/envision.dir/malthus.html> on 25 Nov 2005.

E. Tables

Tables should be submitted as individual electronic files in Word (2013+) or RTF format. Placement of tables should be indicated within the body of the manuscript. The editor will make every effort to place them in as close a proximity as possible. All tables must be accompanied by a descriptive legend using the following format:

Table 1. A comparison of student pre-test and post-test scores in a non-majors' biology class.

F. Figures

Figures should be submitted as **high resolution** (≥ 300 dpi) individual electronic files, either TIFF or JPEG. Placement of figures should be indicated within the body of the manuscript. The editor will make every effort to place them in as close a proximity as possible. Figures only include graphs and/or images. Figures consisting entirely of text will not be accepted and must be submitted as tables instead. No figures put together using a cut and past method will be accepted. All figures should be accompanied by a descriptive legend using the following format:

Fig. 1. Polytene chromosomes of *Drosophila melanogaster*.

III. Letters to the Editor

Letters should be brief (400 words or less) and direct. Letters may be edited for length, clarity, and style. Authors must include institution address, contact phone number, and a signature.

IV. Other Submissions

Reviews and informational submissions may be edited for clarity, length, general interest, and timeliness. Guidelines for citations and references are the same for articles described above.

V. Manuscript Submissions

All manuscripts are to be sent to the editor electronically and must comply with the same guidelines for text, figure and table preparation as described above. *Authors must clearly designate which type of article they are submitting (see Section I) or their manuscript will not be considered for publication.* Emails should include information such as the title of the article, the number of words in the manuscript, the corresponding author's name, and all co-authors. Each author's name should be accompanied by complete postal and email addresses, as well as telephone and FAX numbers. Email will be the primary method of communication with the editors of *Bioscene*.

Communicating authors will receive confirmation of the submission. Manuscripts should be submitted either as a Microsoft Word or RTF (Rich Text File) to facilitate distribution of the manuscript to reviewers and for revisions. A single-email is required to submit electronically, as the review process is not necessarily blind unless requested by an author. If the article has a number of high resolution graphics, separate emails to the editor may be required. The editors recommend that authors complete and remit the [Bioscene Author Checklist](#) with their submission in order to expedite the review process.

VI. Editorial Review and Acceptance

For manuscripts to be sent out for review, at least one author must be a member of ACUBE. Otherwise, by submitting the manuscript without membership, the corresponding author agrees to page charges. Charges will be the membership fee at the time of submission per page. Once the authors' membership or page charge status has been cleared, the manuscripts will be sent to two anonymous reviewers as coordinated through the Editorial Board. Reviewer names and affiliation will be withheld from the authors. The associate editors will examine the article for compliance with the guidelines stated above. If the manuscript is not in compliance or the authors have not agreed to the page cost provisions stated above, manuscripts will be returned to authors until compliance is met or the page cost conditions have been met. Reviewers will examine the submission for:

- **Suitability:** The manuscript relates to teaching biology at the college and university level.
- **Coherence:** The manuscript is well-written with a minimum of typographical errors, spelling and grammatical errors, with the information presented in an organized and thoughtful manner.
- **Novelty:** The manuscript presents new information of interest for college and university biology educators or examines well-known aspects of biology and biology education, such as model organisms or experimental protocols, in a new way.

Once the article has been reviewed, the corresponding author will receive a notification of whether the article has been accepted for publication in *Bioscene*. All notices will be accompanied by suggestions and comments from the reviewers. The author must address all of the reviewers' comments and suggestions using the original document and track changes for any consideration of a resubmission and acceptance. Revisions and resubmission should be made within six months. Manuscripts resubmitted beyond the six-month window will be treated as a new submission. Should manuscripts requiring revision be resubmitted without corrections, the associate editors will return the article until the requested revisions have been made. Upon acceptance, the article will appear in *Bioscene* and will be posted on the ACUBE website. Time from acceptance to publication may take between twelve and eighteen months.

VII. Revision Checklist

Manuscripts will be returned to authors for failure to follow through on the following:

- A. Send a copy of the revised article using track changes for text changes back to the associate editor, along with an email stating how reviewers' concerns were addressed.
- B. Make sure that references are formatted appropriately.
- C. Make sure that recommended changes have been made or a clear explanation as to why they were not.
- D. Figures and legends sent separately, but placement in manuscript should be clearly delimited.

VIII. Editorial Policy and Copyright

It is the policy of *Bioscene* that authors retain copyright of their published material.