Rachel Anderson

BIOL-288

Sophomore Seminar-Reflection

At this point in my major I have a working knowledge of general biology after having completed the course biology 250. This semester I have completed biology 342, biogeography, which has built upon the basics of ecology that I learned in biology 251 and has given me a greater depth of understanding for ecology and evolution. I have not yet taken the pillar courses for micro-level biology or organismal, so I haven’t acquired a depth of understanding on these subjects at this time. I have demonstrated my ability to design an experiment, collect data, analyze data, and draw conclusions in my completion of biology 251 project on how level of soil moisture affects species richness. I displayed my ability to evaluate and interpret data from scientific literature through participation in group discussion of various scientific articles this year in biology 288. I also, demonstrated this skill when using sources to support my scientific articles like in my literature review. I have written multiple types of scientific writing including literature review, lab reports, and general audience papers. I have communicated orally multiple times in presentations from biology 288, biology 251, and in SCED 152. In both the biology 251 and SCED 152 I worked as part of a group to design, complete, and present these presentations. I believe that I am making good progress on completing my degree.

On another note there is always room for improvement. I have found that I have struggled this semester in part due to outside forces, but also due to the increase in difficulty as I progress. The classes demand more time outside the classroom, which reflecting on this semester I need to pace out assignments better. I noticed this semester I had a trouble spacing out assignments and instead on completing them all at once. I like to get things done all in one go, but that method wasn’t ideal and moving forward I am going to work on spreading out the work over more time. Also, reflecting on this last year I realized I have not used many resources to help improve my work like visiting the writing center. Next year, I plan to utilize more resources to help improve my writing skills for the future.