

*Bioscene: Journal of College Biology Teaching*  
**Guidelines for Submissions**

I. Submissions to *Bioscene*

*Bioscene: Journal of College Biology Teaching* is a refereed quarterly publication of the Association of College and University Biology Educators (ACUBE). Submissions should reflect the interests of the membership of ACUBE. Appropriate submissions include:

- Articles: Laboratory and field studies that work, course and curriculum development, innovative and workable teaching strategies that include some type of evaluation of the approaches, and approaches to teaching some of the ethical, cultural, and historical impacts of 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

Submissions can vary in length, but articles should be between 1500 and 4000 words in length. This includes references, 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. A complete submission will consist of the following:

A. Cover letter: All submissions should come with a cover letter indicating that the manuscript is being submitted exclusively to *Bioscene* and why it is appropriate for this journal. Authors may also offer graphics from the article as possible cover art.

B. Cover Sheet: Submissions should include a cover sheet that includes 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. Even with hardcopy submissions, email will be the primary method of communication with the editor of *Bioscene*.

C. 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.

D. Manuscript Text: The introduction to the manuscript begins on the second page. No subheading is needed for this section. This 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. It is recommended that it 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.

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. Disclaimers and endorsements (government, corporate, etc.) will be deleted by the editor.

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. Also, gimmicks such as capitalization, underlining, italics, or boldface are discouraged. All weights and measures should be recorded in the SI (metric) system.

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

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

or

"Ulack (1978) presents alternative conceptual schemes for observations made..."

E. References: References cited within the text should be included alphabetically by the author's last name at the end of the manuscript text with an appropriate subheading. All listed references must be cited in the text and come from published materials in the literature or the Internet. The following examples indicate *Bioscene's* style format for articles, books, book chapters, and web sites:

Articles-

Single author:

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

Multi-authored:

GREEN, H., GOLDBERG, B., SHWARTZ, M., AND D. BROWN. 1968. The synthesis of collagen during the development of *Xenopus laevis*. *Dev. Biol.* 18: 391-400.

Books-

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

Book chapters-

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

Web sites-

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

Note that for references with more than five authors, note the first five authors followed by *et al.*

F. Tables

Tables should be submitted as individual electronic files. Placement of tables should be indicated within the body of the manuscript. All tables should 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.

G. Figures

Figures should be submitted as individual electronic files, either TIFF or BMP. Placement of figures should be indicated within the body of the manuscript. Figures include both graphs and images. 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

Article manuscripts may be sent to the current editor either electronically or by hard copy, accompanied by a disc copy. Electronic submissions are preferable. All authors will receive confirmation of the submission within three weeks. 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 blind unless requested by an author. If the article has a number of high resolution graphics, separate emails or separate discs mailed to the editor may be required.

If hard copy is sent it must be accompanied by a disc containing the complete submission. Three copies of the manuscript, as well as the original, should be submitted. Standard paper should be used with lines of sections of the manuscripts numbered and enough margin to permit reviewer comments. Two self-addressed stamped envelopes must be included if the authors wish to receive reviews and responses by methods other than email.

#### VI. Editorial Review and Acceptance

All manuscripts will be sent to two anonymous reviewers as coordinated through the Editorial Board.

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. Acknowledgement of the reviewers' comments and suggestions must be made for resubmission and acceptance. Upon acceptance, the article will appear in *Bioscene* and will be posted on the ACUBE website. The review process can take 4-5 months. Upon final acceptance, the article will appear in *Bioscene* and will be posted on the ACUBE website within six months of publication. Depending upon volume, time from acceptance to publication may take up to a year.

#### VII. Editorial Policy and Copyright

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