



Beyond the SEA: Continued Study of Phage Genomics

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Abstract

Incoming freshmen at Culver-Stockton College are given the opportunity to participate in and contribute to authentic laboratory and computational research in the field of bacteriophage genomics. This is a one-year course that is offered to freshmen students that use hands-on, experiential methods to teach the importance of both the bench work and bioinformatics efforts that go into characterizing a phage genome. The question is, what's next? In the past, our institution did not offer instruction or research opportunities past the initial freshmen-level course. We have recently reconsidered this approach, allowing dedicated students to continue their research past their freshmen year and further develop their laboratory and bioinformatic skill sets. The goal of this effort is two-fold; we aim to teach students that research is an ongoing process and to progress the field of phage genomics through contributions to an international research project.

Keywords: bacteriophage, genomics, authentic research, bioinformatics

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