

"My name is Shane Ramey and I am a junior Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics student at the University of California, Los Angeles. I transferred to UCLA after two years at the College of the Canyons. COC is an outstanding junior college and I had several excellent courses and professors during my two years there. However, Bioscience 230, taught by Professor Jim Wolf, was by far the best class I had. Biosci 230 is a challenging class but the knowledge and experience gained is well worth the effort, especially for life science students who plan to transfer to a four-year institution or those who want to work in Biotechnology. For example, the first thing I did after I registered for my classes at UCLA was to find a position as a research assistant with a professor. These positions are rare and it is much like applying for a job. The experience I obtained from Biosci 230 played an important role during that process. The professor I now work with, as well as the grad students who have worked in the lab for years, were literally amazed at the amount of lab experience I have. Even juniors who have been at UCLA since their freshman year have little or no lab experience. The techniques I learned in Biosci 230 put me years ahead of those students. In short, Jim Wolf's Biosci 230 class has been invaluable to me. It is a must for life science students or anyone who wants to learn about genetics and gain first-hand lab experience using modern techniques, especially those that are used in Biotechnology."

I believe this letter is of significance not only because it supports Jim as an inspirational teacher and has biotechnology off the ground, but the course, BIOSCI 230, is achieving a primary department objective in providing a better science education equivalent to UCLA's Life Science 3 (one of four cores courses for biology majors at UCLA) to which it articulates. It's wonderful when students succeed at the upper division level, given the solid academic foundation established at COC.