

**Course description:** MCB 91: Research for Credit is a semester-long, letter-graded, 4-credit course. The course is primarily for MCB concentrators. Enrolled students conduct research in a lab of their choosing for an average of 15 hours per week. Students are evaluated on their overall performance – lab work, lab citizenship, and their final paper at the end of the semester. Note that many labs will have other expectations like journal club and lab meeting participation, and presentation. Students are responsible for clarifying expectations with their research mentors.

**You cannot take this as a fifth course (i.e., if you are enrolled in 91, you can have a total of four courses that semester).**

**You can repeat the course once (i.e., take it twice).**

**Eligibility for enrollment:** You need to be an MCB concentrator. You need to have identified a Harvard-affiliated Principal Investigator (PI) that is willing to host you in their lab. You can enroll in the course on my.harvard but continued enrollment in the course is contingent upon receipt of confirmation from your PI that you are approved to work in their lab for credit. The process for confirmation is to fill out the "Lab-PI form" on <https://smart.fas.harvard.edu/> (**deadline August 29 by 3 pm**). **You can access the form mid-August** (please write to [claudia\\_galeas@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:claudia_galeas@fas.harvard.edu) if you are unable to see the form on SMART by then). We will share your submitted form with your PI and your enrollment is confirmed once they approve your form.

**Grading:** Prior to the fifth Monday of the semester, we will reach out to PIs to determine if the performance is satisfactory. At the end of the semester, a final paper is due (details in the Assignments tab), which will be graded by the research mentor(s). Mentors will submit a letter grade based on your overall performance in the lab throughout the semester, including the quality of the final paper.

**Extensions:** There is a final paper due at the end of the semester. Extension requests need to be submitted and approved by the MCB-CPB office (i.e., even if your PI is ok with an extension, you still need to email us requesting an extension). An unapproved late submission will result in a grade penalty.

**Eligible research:** Any basic or translational research in the Life sciences (dry or wet lab projects are OK). Clinical research not eligible.

## **Resources:**

**Citation tools.** Using a reference manager for your citations will only take a few minutes to learn and save a lot of time in the long run! Please click [here](#) for citation software that Harvard offers.

**Transportation resources.** THE "TRANSPORTATION FOR RESEARCHERS" T-PASS/CHARLIECARD PROGRAM is open during term time, including winter session, and helps defray the cost of transportation for students working in labs that are not in the main campus and not serviced by the M2 shuttle. Click [here](#) for eligibility and more information about this program.