

TxCETP Course Component:

**The Key to Classification**  
*“The paths most traveled”*

**I. General Information**

*“Understanding Classification”*

***Overview of Course Component:***

The Classification Inquiry Course Component is designed to facilitate an inquiry-based approach to understanding key concepts in the science of taxonomy. The activities included in the Course Component allow students to develop an appreciation for the rules governing taxonomy, as well as hands-on practice in using dichotomous keys.

***Objectives of Course Component:***

The student is expected to: (1) be able to apply taxonomic rules with an understanding of the limitations inherent within taxonomy as a discipline, (2) analyze the relationships among organisms and develop a model of a hierarchical classification system based on similarities and differences using taxonomic nomenclature, and (3) collect and classify organisms at several taxonomic levels such as species, phylum and kingdom using dichotomous keys.

***Overall Time Frame for the Course Component:***

Approximately two, fifty minute classes and 20 minutes of a third class.