

# Intensive lab experiences and online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic

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"With our rapid pivot to online instruction, it is more important than ever to ensure our students have meaningful field-based experience," said co-author Robert McCleery, PhD, of the University of Florida. Credit: Dr. McCleery

For students studying ecology and evolution, it's important to experience the processes and concepts they are learning about nature in nature. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, field-based courses rapidly transitioned to online only delivery. An article published in *Ecology and Evolution* discusses the potential advantages of pairing an intensive lab experience with an otherwise online delivery.

The authors note that a short but intensive time period in the field may be better than the traditional low intensity weekly lab structure because it allows a group to be tested and isolated, offers more flexibility for students with competing interests for their time, and enhances [student interpersonal skills](#).

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**More information:** Marcus Lashley et al, Intensive Laboratory experiences to safely retain experiential learning in the transition to online learning, *Ecology and Evolution* (2020). [DOI: 10.1002/ece3.6886](https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.6886)

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