

1 **Challenging Endocrinology Students with a Critical** 2 **Thinking Workbook**

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15 **Abstract**

16 A central goal of science education is to help students develop higher order thinking
17 skills to enable them to face the challenges of life. Accordingly, science instructors are now
18 urged to craft their classrooms such that they serve not only as spaces for disseminating
19 information, but also an arena through which students are encouraged to think scientifically and
20 develop critical thinking skills. This project aimed to develop a workbook that helps
21 postsecondary students learn endocrinology and engages them in critical thinking. Each of the
22 five chapters focus on a different topic rooted within core biological concepts relevant to
23 endocrinology. Such topics were identified upon cross referencing seminal reports on science
24 education. Tenants of Numrich’s Sequence of Critical Thinking Tasks were used to guide the
25 development of chapter sections with the intent of engaging students in critical thinking over
26 time by way of practice and scaffolded guidance. Chapter sections include modeling, event
27 sequencing, clinical application, research and communication, and simulation, each of which
28 target a different repertoire of skills presented in Numrich’s framework. Students’ learning,
29 experiences, and behaviors were used to evaluate the workbook and inform the revision of the
30 workbook into the publicly-available second edition.

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33 **Keywords:** critical thinking, graduate students, undergraduate students, endocrinology, biology
34 education

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44 INTRODUCTION

45 Historically, the overarching goal of science has been geared towards providing society
46 with a better understanding of the natural world. From knowledge about our solar system to the
47 human body, researchers have and will continue to unearth scientific truths. A common
48 characteristic of scientists is higher-order thinking skills (24). Moreover, students who think
49 critically get better grades, are better at reasoning through daily decisions, and are often more
50 employable (26). These skills are learned through practice and science education plays a key role
51 in helping students develop higher-order thinking skills as well as didactic knowledge.

52 In 2011, the *Vision and Change* report provided undergraduate biology educators with a
53 framework to enhance student understanding of core concepts and engagement in core scientific
54 competencies by attending to developing students' biological literacy and critical thinking skills
55 (1). The report concentrates on helping students become competent in the process of science,
56 develop collaboration and communication skills, gain exposure to modeling, simulation and
57 systems-level approaches to learning, as well as develop thinking skills and an appreciation for
58 science (1). These objectives are built upon the idea that:

59 *“Appreciating the scientific process can be even more important than knowing*
60 *scientific facts. People often encounter claims that something is scientifically*
61 *known. If they understand how science generates and assesses evidence bearing on*
62 *these claims, they possess analytical methods and critical thinking skills that are*
63 *relevant to a wide variety of facts and concepts and can be used in a wide variety*
64 *of context”* (26 pg., 16).

65
66 Although the framework is targeted to undergraduate students, it also can serve as a solid
67 foundation for students pursuing graduate and professional science programs. Out of students
68 who enroll in graduate degree programs, biological science is one of the most common
69 undergraduate fields of study (4).

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70 While the *Vision and Change* framework is specific to the overarching discipline of
71 biology, it also applies to sub-disciplines such as anatomy and physiology. With first year
72 medical school enrollment hitting an all-time high, coupled with the fact that healthcare is the
73 largest industry showing the highest amount of growth of any other field, the number of students
74 enrolled in anatomy and physiology related courses continues to grow (3, 36). Endocrinology, as
75 a sub-discipline of physiology, has been identified as one of the most difficult topics for students
76 to grasp, particularly when critical thinking skills are weak (9). One way to address such
77 difficulties would be to focus curriculum on engaging students' critical thinking skills for
78 improved and longer lasting understanding of didactic material.

79 We developed an endocrinology workbook using an action research approach (22). The
80 workbook aims to help upper level undergraduate and graduate endocrinology students engage in
81 critical thinking and understand key physiological concepts related to endocrine systems. Below,
82 we provide an explanation of a framework of critical thinking. Then, we describe how we used
83 the framework and other research to inform the construction of the workbook. Finally, we
84 describe our evaluation and revision of the workbook.

85 **DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORKBOOK**

86 Activities that meld learning content and thinking skills, such as the endocrinology
87 workbook described here, have the capacity to have great value when properly constructed and
88 integrated into science courses. The critical thinking skills practiced within the workbook are
89 grounded in theory and previous research, including Numrich's Sequence of Critical Thinking
90 Tasks, and are organized into the sections of modeling, event sequencing, critical thinking,
91 research and communication, and simulation. The content of the workbook was guided by

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92 seminal reports on key concepts for undergraduate biology, anatomy, and physiology, which
93 traverse the chapters on intracellular signaling, central endocrine control, metabolism, growth,
94 and female reproductive cycling.

95 A scaffolding approach was interwoven throughout the workbook. Instructional
96 scaffolding pertains to a pedagogical technique wherein the instructor provides students with
97 temporary support structures to help them achieve difficult tasks that would be difficult for them
98 to reach on their own without prior experience (30). Within the first chapter of the workbook,
99 students were provided with examples and in some cases part of the activity completed for them.
100 Subsequent chapters remove different supports. How individual sections applied and omitted
101 scaffolding is described in the text below on the sections of the workbook.

102 To complete the first cycle of action research (22), we evaluated the workbook using
103 student learning, experiences, and behaviors, and revised the workbook into the second edition,
104 which is available in Supplemental Materials 1
105 (<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8870990.v3>).

106 ***Theoretical Framework***

107 In order to best understand how to challenge students' critical thinking skills, one must
108 first recognize its multiple facets. Critical thinking comprises both cognitive skills and
109 dispositions. Facione (14) explains how critical thinking cognitive skills include analysis,
110 inference, evaluation, interpretation, explanation and self-regulation. Critical thinking
111 dispositions include truth-seeking, open-mindedness, orderliness, systematic and inquisitiveness,
112 having good interpersonal and analytical thinking skills, as well as the ability to judge the

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113 reliability of information (37). These constructs are drawn upon differentially depending on the
114 task at hand (19).

115 Education researchers have investigated the development of the cognitive skills and
116 dispositions associated with critical thinking. Findings show that while cognitive skills can be
117 developed in the short- and medium-term scales, changes in dispositions require more long-term
118 efforts (32, 33). Therefore, instructors should create courses that present students with repeated
119 and consistent practice with critical thinking skills and dispositions in order to help students
120 develop complete critical thinking.

121 Numrich (28) argues that practice with critical thinking should be scaffolded in a specific
122 sequence of related perspectives, tasks, and skills (Table 1). Students' first encounter with course
123 material should involve observing their world through the context of the classroom and most
124 often occurs during the lecture portion of a course or independent homework assignments (5).
125 Next, students should be challenged to understand, organize and interpret the information. This
126 can be achieved through ordering, classifying, explaining cause and effect, hypothesizing and
127 making inferences. Such activities focus students on the content presented in the text. The last
128 level students occupy in their development of critical thinking skills asks them to focus beyond
129 the text by way of researching, synthesizing information, critiquing, making logical conclusions
130 and problem solving. As students strengthen their critical thinking skills, they advance in their
131 level of perspective wherein they engage in more complex critical thinking as reflected by the
132 difficulty of the skills practiced.

133 [TABLE 1 HERE]

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134 It can seem daunting for an educator to help students navigate through Numrich’s
135 sequence in only one semester. However, relatively simple changes can be made to a course
136 curriculum to help make these goals more achievable (15). As an example, here, we describe
137 how we have used Numrich's skills as a framework for developing exercises in an endocrinology
138 workbook (workbook provided in Supplemental Materials 1
139 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8870990.v3>) to help students repeatedly practice specific
140 critical thinking skills (Table 2).

141 [TABLE 2 HERE]

142 ***Key concepts, learning goals, and objectives***

143 Recently, several organizations have published recommendations outlining which content
144 and concepts students should be learning. We analyzed recommendations from organizations
145 relevant to our context of endocrinology, namely The American Association for the
146 Advancement of Science (1), American Physiological Society (25) and Human Anatomy and
147 Physiology Society (20, 21), and identified common and applicable concepts; these are
148 homeostasis/systems, informational flow, structure and function, and scientific reasoning (Table
149 3).

150 [TABLE 3 HERE]

151 We used these concepts to guide development of learning goals and objectives for each
152 chapter of the workbook (Figure 1). For example, in considering how to help students understand
153 the core concept of homeostasis and systems, we crafted specific objectives, such as “generate
154 endocrine axes and feedback loops”, “explain how hormones act upon their specific effector
155 organs” and “describe the collective actions of organs and organs systems in maintaining

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156 homeostasis.” As seen in the overlap between information flow and homeostasis, some learning
157 objectives supported the understanding of more than one core concept.

158 [FIGURE 1 HERE]

159 Each chapter of the workbook concentrates on one topic that is presented as part of the
160 lecture unit. While the workbook and lecture content run in tandem, there are some topics that
161 are included in the workbook that are not touched upon in class. However, if they are presented
162 in class, the workbook requires deeper understanding. While goals and objectives vary slightly
163 amongst the five chapters, all chapters include the same sections. The following text describes
164 the sections of the workbook, specifically how each section uniquely targets the development of
165 critical thinking skills according to Numrich’s sequence and additional research that supports
166 their value in developing critical thinking skills.

167 *Structure of the workbook*

168 **Background reading.** A background reading section was placed at the beginning of each
169 chapter to support the goal of making the workbook self-contained and not dependent on a
170 certain textbook or lecture. Background readings are one to two pages and contain text and
171 figures that describes the focused topic as well as references to relevant literature. The
172 background reading is a resource for students to use while completing subsequent chapter
173 sections.

174 **Modeling.** Next, the students engage in modeling in order to summarize and explain
175 relationships presented in the background reading by placing concepts in boxes and connecting
176 boxes with labeled arrows that describe the relationships or actions between the concept boxes
177 (e.g., Supplemental Materials 1 page 8 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8870990.v3>). The

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178 modeling activity is scaffolded so that, in the earlier chapters, students are provided with some of
179 the concepts already filled in, whereas in the later chapters the models are either presented blank
180 or students are asked to create their own models using a given set of terms.

181 The modeling activities are grounded in Numrich's framework and previous studies to
182 promote critical thinking. By taking concepts presented in the background reading and
183 constructing a model that represents their relationship amongst one another, students learn to
184 summarize, distinguish relevant details, order, classify and explain cause and effect (Table 2).
185 Additionally, Salleh, Tasir, and Shukor (34) reported that students' interaction, manipulation and
186 creation of visuals throughout a modeling activity promoted students' ability to organize and
187 process information thus challenging them to harness higher-order thinking skills.

188 *Event Sequencing.* Students are then asked to order events by using their models to place
189 the provided statements in a primary order and then an alternative order. Sequencing activities
190 are scaffolded so that, in earlier chapters, entire statements are provided, while by the end
191 students are instructed to first complete a partial statement and then order the events correctly.
192 The event sequencing activities are grounded in theories on critical thinking and teaching
193 biological complexity to engage students in critical thinking and learn endocrine content.

194 Endocrine systems fulfill many of the characteristics that describe complex systems such
195 as having many interacting agents, positive and negative feedback, showing patterns that arise
196 both ordered and disordered (8). When first presenting complex systems to students, it is best to
197 portray relationships as concrete and mechanistic (25). The first sequencing event activity
198 integrates skills from the second level of Numrich's framework where students are focused on
199 the text and begin to understand, interpret and organize information (Table 2). This encourages

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200 students to engage with the same content from the previous section in a different way, and also
201 serves to simplify intricate concepts in the beginning stages of comprehension, both of which are
202 integral for learning content involving complex biological systems (25).

203 Upon further exposure, it is important for students to recognize the complexity of
204 biological systems (12). In the second sequencing activity, students create an alternative
205 sequence (e.g., Supplemental Materials 1 page 9, “Part 2”
206 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8870990.v3>). This helps to show students that cellular and
207 physiological events are more accurately dynamic, emergent and simultaneous. Moreover, this
208 alternative sequencing activity encourages students to reflect on related ideas and re-evaluate
209 assumptions, which occupies the third level of Numrich’s sequence.

210 ***Clinical Application.*** Students are provided a phenomenon as a clinical scenario and five
211 potential explanations. Students must identify which explanation most accurately explains the
212 phenomena. For the explanations they reject, students are to identify incorrect components and
213 describe why they are wrong. For the one explanation the students accept, they must argue why it
214 is a plausible explanation. This section aligns with Numrich's sequence by engaging students in
215 critiquing when arguing for an acceptable explanation and rejecting invalid options (Table 2).
216 Additionally, students engage in writing and argumentation.

217 Writing benefits the development of critical thinking skills. Writing requires an
218 individual to make their ideas explicit, as well as evaluate and choose among tools necessary for
219 effective communication (2). Students exhibit larger gains in critical thinking skills when
220 participating in biology courses that involve inquiry, writing, research, and analysis compared to
221 students in traditional courses (32, 33). Writing is particularly influential if it provides an

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222 opportunity to think through and formulate arguments (13) potentially because the act of writing
223 forces students to restructure knowledge in their own words (23). Furthermore, by generating
224 complete thoughts and supportive claims when asked to defend ideas through writing, students
225 practice skills associated with more advanced critical thinking (28, 31).

226 **Research and Communication.** First, students research a medication or pathology and
227 describe how it works or results in the disease, as well as list and explain two symptoms or side
228 effects that are often experienced. Second, they discuss with a classmate what they learned and
229 write what they learned from their partner’s research. Here, students practice Numrich’s most
230 advanced level of perspective (28) by going beyond the information provided in the background
231 reading to do research (Table 2). Then, when educating a peer on the new information learned,
232 students practice communication.

233 Students who participate in activities that require communication and collaboration
234 perform significantly better on critical thinking tests compared to students who study
235 individually (16). Exchanging ideas helps foster critical thinking skills because students are
236 encouraged to make inferences, evaluate their preconceived notions, develop arguments and
237 problem solve while in conversation (29, 35).

238 **Simulation.** Students are to formulate predictions, simulate cellular and physiological
239 events, conduct and describe systematic observations, and evaluate their predictions using an
240 online platform, Cell Collective (17, 18). These tasks engage students in critical thinking by
241 providing an opportunity to hypothesize, theorize, and make logical conclusions, as well as
242 interpret meaning and re-evaluate assumptions (Table 2). Additionally, simulations have been

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243 shown to help students develop critical thinking (34) and gain knowledge of biological systems
244 (6, 7, 10–12).

245 *Evaluation of the workbook*

246 We evaluated the workbook by analyzing data on students' learning, experiences, and
247 behaviors when the workbook was implemented in an Endocrinology course. The course was an
248 upper-level undergraduate and graduate cross-listed elective of which had physiology or cell and
249 molecular biology as prerequisites. This work was conducted with approval from the institutional
250 review board (#HS17-0259).

251 *Student learning.* Students' learning was evaluated according to their performance on the
252 workbook. Of the twelve students enrolled in the course, nine provided consent to have their
253 performance included in this research. Students submitted chapters at the conclusion of each of
254 the five lecture units. Students were able to drop their lowest grade; therefore, some students
255 only completed four of the five chapters. Each chapter was graded out of fifty points, with
256 modeling, sequencing, simulation, and clinical application sections worth ten points, and
257 research and communication each worth five points (answer keys for the workbook chapters can
258 be obtained from the authors upon request). However, extra credit was given for complicated
259 simulation sections in chapters 3, 4 and 5, making those chapter worth a possible 53 points.

260 Overall, students performed well on the workbook chapters (mean = 47 out of 50 points,
261 94%, standard deviation (SD) = 3.1; Figure 2) suggesting that the workbook helped students
262 learn the endocrine content. Additional factors that may have contributed to high overall scores
263 include that students were able to skip one chapter of their choosing, work with one another, and
264 were provided approximately two weeks to complete the chapter with any resources.

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265 [FIGURE 2 HERE]

266 Despite overall high scores, there was some variation in performance among chapters
267 (Figure 2). Chapter two on master endocrine control had the lowest average score (mean = 45
268 points, 90%, SD = 2.3) suggesting that students had the most difficulty learning how endocrine
269 systems are regulated in the brain with the workbook. Additionally, the lower performance could
270 be attributed to the fact that chapter two covers a greater variety of concepts. Unlike the other
271 workbook chapters that dissect one topic presented in the unit, chapter two reviews all
272 hypothalamic and pituitary hormones. Another contributing factor to the increased difficulty of
273 chapter two could be the fact that some scaffolding, such as a few of the pre-filled terms in the
274 modeling section, was removed.

275 Student performance was highest for chapter four on growth (mean = 49 points, 98%, SD
276 = 2.1; Figure 2) suggesting that they learned the most about growth with the workbook. This
277 could be attributed to students paying better attention to directions and providing more complete
278 answers despite having more responsibilities, of which included generating their own models.
279 Additionally, the simulation section was offered for bonus points, which accounts for the scores
280 above 50 points seen in the last three chapters (Figure 2).

281 *Student experience.* Students' experiences with the workbook was evaluated according
282 to their responses to an anonymous online survey given at the end of the semester (Supplemental
283 Materials Table S1 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8870990.v3>). Of the twelve students
284 enrolled in the course and used the workbook, nine completed the survey. Quotes are provided as
285 pseudonyms.

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286 A majority of students found the directions to be clear and easy to follow (Figure 3A) and
287 the difficulty of the questions to be appropriate (Figure 3B). Chapters three and four on appetite
288 control and growth, respectively, were chosen by the most students as their favorite (Figure 3C).
289 Student responses indicate that much of this preference was due to personal interest in the
290 chapter topics. Tony stated that, “I like learning about something, then referring it back to
291 myself, I always think about the various hormones that regulate my appetite and that to me is
292 really cool.” Likewise, Lee’s preference stemmed from the fact that, “I love learning about
293 growth,” while James liked appetite control the most because, “I thought this was the most
294 interesting chapter.”

295 [FIGURE 3 HERE]

296 Five out of nine students indicated chapter one on intracellular signaling as being their
297 least favorite (data not shown). Additionally, no student chose this chapter as their favorite
298 (Figure 3C). However, there was little consensus as to why chapter one was the least favorite.
299 Some example sentiments included, “This was the first chapter I did, so it took the longest
300 amount of time” (Joy). While Whitney shared that, “I have never been a huge fan of cellular
301 mechanisms. They are fundamental to the understanding of endocrinology, but I just have very
302 little interest in the specifics of how cells communicate.”

303 When asked what section was their favorite, a majority of the students chose the event
304 sequencing or clinical application sections (Figure 3D). Responses on the post-semester survey
305 suggest that the event sequencing section helped simplify the complexity of the chapter topic and
306 bring ideas together to improve their overall understanding of the topic in discussion. For
307 example, Linda expressed that, “sequencing was my favorite section because it was the section

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308 that helped me the most in understanding the lesson. I believe that solving that section gives the
309 students a great overview of the topic and delivers the main portion that needs to be understood.”

310 Those that chose the clinical application as their favorite section described that they liked
311 how the section integrated a real life scenario that they had to investigate which consequently
312 allowed them to see the applicability of the topic in everyday life. Owen appreciated how the
313 clinical application section, “gave a real life situation,” while Martin stated that, “I enjoyed
314 applying the concepts to actual scenarios.” Similarly, Jared found that the clinical application
315 section, “proposed questions that one would come across in the clinical setting. It challenged the
316 reader to think deeper in order to figure out solutions to real life problems.”

317 ***Student behavior.*** The instructors (authors AD and HBR) made observations of the
318 students’ behavior with the workbook while grading, when students had approached the
319 instructors for help, and while students worked in groups to complete the workbook. In the
320 modeling sections, many students did not properly label arrows with relationships between
321 concept boxes and thus not properly explain how the terms related to one another. In the clinical
322 application section, many students mistakenly chose two or more statements as being correct
323 when only one statement is true. When students were asked to explain the mechanism of action
324 or pathophysiology of their partner’s medication or disorder in the communication section,
325 students provided a wide range of detail depth. Students had difficulty navigating the
326 computational modeling platform to simulate and/or create models of physiological relevance.

327 ***Revision of the workbook***

328 As a result of the aforementioned evaluation, and following the next step in action
329 research (22), we revised the workbook into a second edition, which is accessible and openly

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330 available in Supplemental Materials 1 (<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.8870990.v3>). The
331 only major change was the removal of the simulation sections. Minor changes included
332 rewording directions to be clearer and providing examples.

333 **CONCLUSION**

334 We have described the development of an endocrinology workbook that integrates theory
335 and evidence-based practices in order to best support student comprehension of endocrinology-
336 related core concepts and engagement in critical thinking. This work was primarily guided by
337 Numrich’s view of critical thinking tasks as a hierarchy involving growth of higher-order
338 thinking achieved over time by way of practice and proper guidance via scaffolding in addition
339 to other pedagogical best practices for critical thinking. Our workbook sections of each chapter
340 are modeling, event sequencing, clinical application, simulation, and research and
341 communication, each targeting a different repertoire of skills presented in Numrich’s framework.
342 Our workbook chapters each focus on a different topic within core concepts relevant to post-
343 secondary students’ learning of endocrinology. We evaluated the workbook with data on student
344 learning, experience and behavior. We found that student preferences of chapter arise from
345 personal interest in the chapter topic. Section preferences stem from perceived utility in
346 improving their overall understanding and valuing real-life applications. Common areas of
347 confusion and difficulties were attributed to unclear instructions. We used these findings to
348 refine the workbook into a second edition that is available for others to use. This work and others
349 like it serves a dual purpose by helping students learn concepts and engage in critical thinking
350 that benefits students regardless of what future science courses or careers they pursue.

351 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

352 We thank Morgan Newport, Jason Wack, Christina Cline, and Collin Jaeger for their assistance
353 on the workbook and this research. This project was supported by the Department of Biological
354 Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Division of Research and Innovative
355 Partnerships at Northern Illinois University.

356

357 **DISCLOSURES**

358 No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

359

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CHALLENGING ENDO CRITICAL THINKING

448 **TABLE LEGENDS**

449

450 Table 1. Numrich's Sequence of Critical Thinking Tasks according to Beaumont (5).

451

452 Table 2. Endocrinology course workbook sections (left column) with their alignment to
453 Numrich's critical thinking skills (right column).

454

455 Table 3. Recommended core concepts from seminal reports (and references in parentheses)
456 relevant to endocrinology used to create workbook goals and objectives.

457

458

CHALLENGING ENDO CRITICAL THINKING

459 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

460

461 Figure 1. Relationships among the core concepts of biology and physiology from seminal reports
462 (Table 3) and the learning goals and objectives of the Endocrinology workbook.

463

464 Figure 2. Student workbook scores by chapter. Fifty points were possible for chapters one and
465 two while 53 points were possible for the last three chapters due to extra credit for the
466 simulation section. The y axis begins at 40 points. Open circles represent individual
467 data points (i.e., student scores). The ends of each box (i.e., hinges) represent the upper
468 and lower quartiles of scores so as to span the interquartile range (25-75 percentiles).
469 The horizontal line within each box marks the median. Whiskers represent data that is
470 within 1.5 times the interquartile range of the hinge.

471

472 Figure 3. Frequencies of student responses to questions about workbook direction clarity (A),
473 question difficulty (B), favorite chapter (C), and favorite section (D).

474

475

476

Table 1.

Levels of Perspective	Critical Thinking Tasks	Skills Practiced
I. Focus on the students' world	Observing	Looking Listening Sharing background
	Identifying assumptions	Expressing opinions Clarifying values
II. Focus on the text	Understanding and organizing	Summarizing Distinguishing relevant details Ordering Classifying
	Interpreting	Comparing and contrasting Explaining cause and effect Making inferences Interpreting meaning Hypothesizing Theorizing
III. Focus beyond the text	Inquiring further	Surveying the public Interviewing a specialist Researching
	Analyzing and evaluating	Synthesizing information Critiquing Reflecting on related idea Making logical conclusions Re-evaluating assumptions Proposing solutions Problem solving Taking action Participating

Table 2.

Workbook Section	Numrich's Critical Thinking Skills Practiced (Beaumont, 2010)
Modeling	Summarizing Distinguishing relevant details Ordering Classifying Explaining cause and effect
Sequencing	Ordering Classifying Reflecting on related ideas Re-evaluating assumptions
Clinical Application	Critiquing Making logical conclusions Synthesizing information
Research and Communication	Participating Researching
Simulation	Hypothesizing Theorizing Making logical conclusions Interpreting meaning Re-evaluate assumptions

Table 3.

Report	Core Concept			
Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education: A Call to Action (1)	Homeostasis/ Systems	Information Flow Pathway and transformation of energy and matter Information flow, exchange and storage	Structure and Function Structure and function	Scientific Reasoning Ability to understand the relationship between science and society Ability to apply the process of science
The Core Concepts of Physiology Teaching (25)	Homeostasis	Causality Cell-cell communication Flow-down gradients	Structure and function	Scientific reasoning
Anatomy-Only Learning Outcomes (20)	Describe the major functions of the endocrine system	Compare and contrast how the nervous system and endocrine system control body function. Explain the role of the hypothalamus in the release of anterior pituitary hormones. Explain the role of the hypothalamus in the production and release of posterior pituitary hormones.	Describe the major functions of the endocrine system. Describe the locations of and the anatomical relationships between the hypothalamus, anterior pituitary and posterior pituitary. Describe each endocrine organs' anatomy, location in the body, and list the major hormones secreted by each.	

Course Guidelines for Undergraduate Instruction of Human Anatomy and Physiology (21)	Application of homeostatic mechanisms	Control of hormone secretion	General functions of the endocrine system Chemical classification of hormones and mechanism of hormone actions at receptors Identity, source, secretory control, and functional roles of the major hormones produced by the body	Predictions related to homeostatic imbalance, including disease states and disorders
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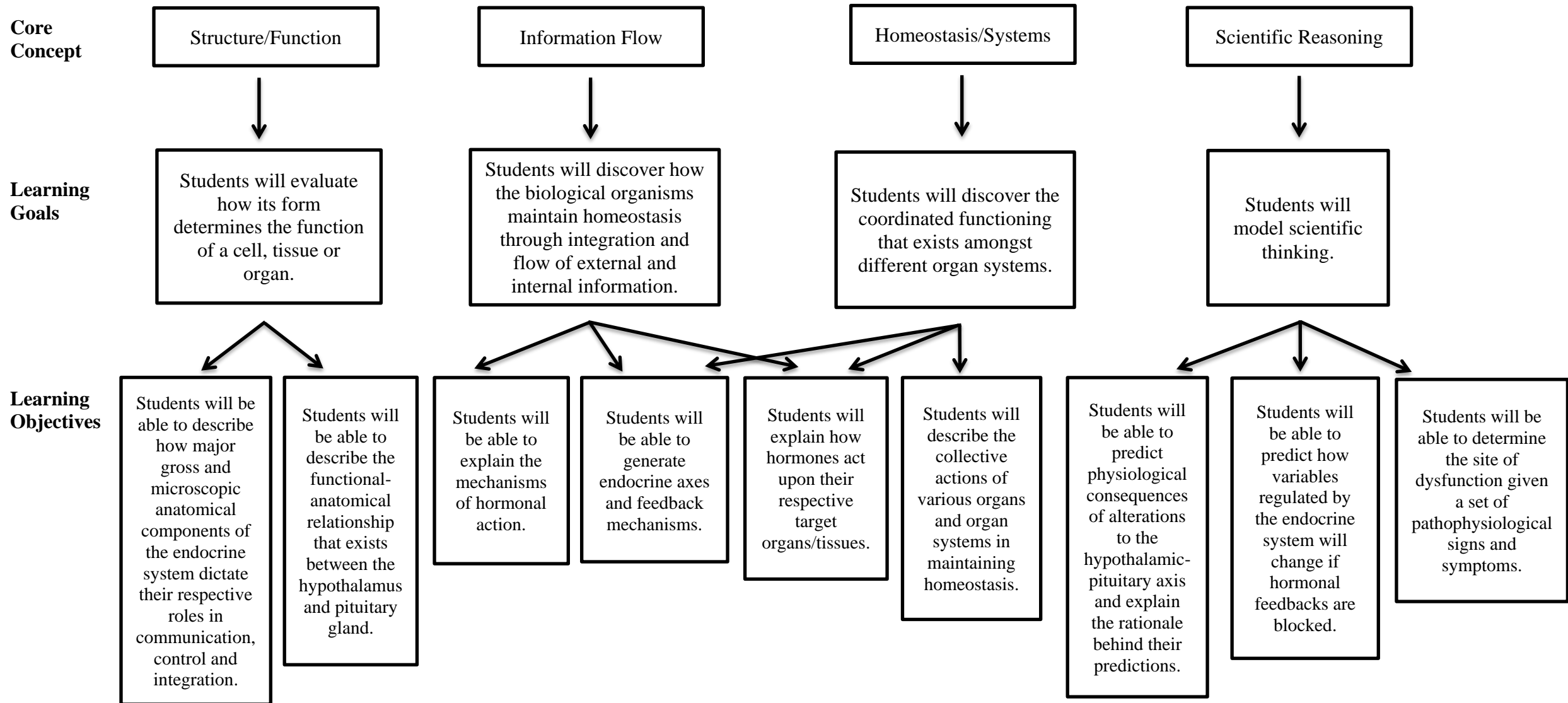


Figure 1.

