**BIOLOGY HONORS TRACK**

**Purpose:** The Biology Honors Program trains students to conduct sustained, supervised research in biology. Biology Honors students work closely with a faculty mentor, take Honors courses, present their research proposals and finished research at the Honors conferences, and write an Honors thesis on their research.

**To apply:** Students must first declare and be accepted into the BA or BS Biology undergraduate program, then apply to the Honors program AFTER consultation with the Biology undergraduate advisor.
- Students will need a signed departmental approval form (to be found on the Honors website “Forms” page) from the Biology undergraduate advisor as part of the Honors application material.

**Requirements/Coursework:**

1. **HON 491/Interdisciplinary Junior Honors Seminar:** 3 credits
   a. This course is an interdisciplinary, upper-division, Writing Intensive course. Topics vary from semester to semester depending on instructor.
   b. Students may petition to waive this course (no credits will be counted) if they have a study abroad experience, take a graduate Biology (or related, pre-approved) course, have a research or internship experience or received the Sophomore Honors award as a Selected Studies Honors student.

2. **HON 495/Introduction to Research:** 3 credits
   a. This course is focused on the shaping of a research proposal and its presentation.
   b. At the end of this semester, students are required to present their research proposals at the Fall Forum or Spring Symposium.
   c. Students must have their projects approved by the Biology Associate Chair to ensure that projects fulfill the requirements of the major.
   d. Students must have a faculty mentor for their project by the end of the semester
      i. If a student chooses a faculty mentor who is from outside the Biology department (e.g. JABSOM, NREM, etc.), the Biology Associate Chair must approve the mentor to ensure that s/he is aware of the requirements of the Biology department and that s/he is qualified to advise the student on the proposed project.
      ii. A form allowing outside faculty mentors needs to be signed by the Biology Associate Chair or advisor and submitted to the Honors program. It can be found on the Honors website.
   e. Students may petition to waive this course (no credits will be awarded) if they have written a proposal under the supervision of faculty under different auspices. The proposal must be approved by the Biology Associate Chair, the Honors Program Director and the proposed faculty mentor. The student is still required to present the proposal at the Fall Forum or Spring Symposium.
   f. Regardless of the coursework that the student takes to fulfill this requirement for Honors and Biology, the student is still required to present his/her research proposal at the Fall Forum or Spring Symposium.

3. **HON 496/Senior Honors Project or BIOL 499:** 6 credits (2 semesters) or a combination
a. Students work independently with their faculty mentor/advisor on their research and in the writing of their thesis.
b. Students taking their first 3 credits of HON 496 or BIO 499 must also take the HON 496 workshop to keep abreast of Upper Division Honors requirements, announcements and program deadlines. Workshop times are listed on the course schedule/Honors website.
c. Students will consult with their faculty mentor/advisor and their committee members (two additional) over the course of the research, ideally culminating in a final conversation for feedback on a completed rough draft approximately 5 weeks prior to the end of their last semester.
d. At the end of the second 3 credits of HON 496 or BIO 499, students present their research at the Fall Forum or Spring Symposium and submit their finished Senior Honors Project to the Honors Program.