Botany Honors Track

**Purpose:** The Botany Honors Program trains students to conduct sustained, supervised research in botany. Botany Honors students work closely with a faculty mentor, take Honors courses, present their research proposal 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 Botany or BS Ethnobotany undergraduate program, then apply to the Honors program AFTER consultation with the Botany undergraduate advisor.

- Students will need a signed departmental approval form (to be found on the Honors website “Forms” page) from the Botany 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 course in Botany (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 Botany Chair to ensure that projects fulfill the requirements of the major.
   d. Students must have a Botany faculty mentor for their project by the end of the semester.
   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 Botany Chair, the Honors Program Director, and the proposed faculty mentor. The student is still required to present the proposal at the Spring or Fall Undergraduate Showcase.
   f. Regardless of the coursework that the student takes to fulfill this requirement for Honors and Botany, the student is still required to present his/her research proposal at the Spring or Fall Undergraduate Showcase.

3. **HON 496/Senior Honors Project or BOT 399:** 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 theses.
   b. Students taking their first 3 credits of HON 496 or BOT 399 must also take the HON 496 workshop to keep abreast of Upper Division Honors requirements, announcements, and program deadlines. Workshop times are listed on Honors website and will be
emailed to all Upper Division Honors Program students before the start of each semester.

c. Students will consult with their faculty mentor/advisor and their committee members (two additional Botany, Biology, or other pre-approved UHM faculty members) over the course of the research, 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 BOT 399, students present their research at the Spring or Fall Undergraduate Showcase and submit their finished Senior Honors Project to the Honors Program.