

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 finished research at the Undergraduate Showcase, and write an Honors thesis on their research.

To apply:

For students accepted into the Honors Program in their freshman year, and who have fulfilled the course requirements for first and second year Honors, the Biology Honors track clarifies the coursework and steps for proceeding into the third and fourth year. Students must still complete a Departmental Approval form in consultation with their Biology academic advisor to ensure that they remain on track for Honors in Biology. The HON 491 requirement for these students is waived.

Sophomores or juniors entering the Honors Program must first declare and be accepted into the BA or BS Biology undergraduate program, then apply to the Honors Upper Division 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 take a graduate Biology (or related, pre-approved) course or have a research or internship experience (outside of their Senior Honors Project).
2. The submission of a 10-12 page (minimum) written proposal for research, accompanied by a signed proposal/mentor form.
 - a. We highly recommend taking **HON 495/Introduction to Research:** 3 credits
 - a. This course is focused on the shaping of a research proposal and its presentation.
 - b. Students must have their projects approved by the Biology Associate Chair to ensure that projects fulfill the requirements of the major.
 - c. 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.
3. **HON 494/Research Workshop** (zero credits)
 - a. This is a companion workshop for HON 496 or BIO 499 designed to familiarize students with independent research protocols, good habits for mentored research, Honors Program criteria and resources, and the timeline for the Senior Honors Project.
4. **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 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 7 weeks prior to the end of their last semester.
- c. At the end of the second 3 credits of HON 496 or BIO 499, students present their research at the Undergraduate Showcase and submit their finished Senior Honors Project to the Honors Program.