

Biological Sciences Departmental Honors in Research Requirements and Procedures

I. Student Requirements

1. Minimum GPA of 3.25 for the following courses by graduation:

BIOL 141, BIOL 142, BIOL 302, BIOL 303, BIOL 300L, BIOL 497H, CHEM 101, CHEM 102, CHEM 102L, CHEM 351, MATH 151 (or 155), STAT 350 (or MATH 152), PHYS 111 (or 121), PHYS 112 (or 122)

2. Apply for Departmental Honors in Research using form available online **before registering** for BIOL 497H. Form must be completed and signed by student, faculty mentor, and honors degree coordinator.

3. Two or more semesters **BIOL 499: Independent Research in Biological Sciences** (*minimum total of 4 credits, pass/fail*) in the laboratory of a Biological Sciences faculty member.

4. One semester **BIOL 497H: Honors Thesis and Capstone Course** (*3 credits, graded*).

a. Students complete a **third semester of research** in a faculty mentor's lab.

b. Students attend ~**12 scientific (e.g., departmental) seminars**. Each student will be expected to write **short abstracts** of 5-6 of these seminars, to be evaluated by the faculty mentor.

c. Students write an **Honors thesis** in the form of a research journal article.

* The faculty mentor will provide guidance and advice regarding the writing of the honors thesis. Upon completion, the thesis will be evaluated by honors coordinator and graded by the mentor.

d. Students present results of the project in the form of an **oral and/or poster presentation** at one or more public forums such as a scientific meeting, UMBC's annual spring Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (**URCAD**), the Department's spring GABS symposium, UMBC's Summer Undergraduate Research Fest, or the fall Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences.

II. Faculty Mentor Responsibilities

1. Sign Application for Departmental Honors in Research before student registers (form available online).

2. Provide permission for student to register for 2 semesters of 499 and 1 semester 497H.

3. Supervise independent research project over the course of 3+ semesters.

4. Confirm seminar attendance; read and archive the 5-6 seminar abstracts.

5. Supervise writing of thesis; coordinate with honors degree coordinator for final approval.

6. Supervise student presentation at public forum.

7. Follow up with honors degree coordinator during Graduation Reviews.

III. Formal Recognition of Achievement

1. Transcript notation ("Departmental Honors")

2. Commencement program notation

3. Curriculum Vitae notation

4. Departmental Honors in Research graduation regalia cord

5. Recognition at CNMS Student Recognition Day

Note: 2 semesters of BIOL 499 + 1 semester of 497H may substitute for a 3XX Lab elective major requirement for the BIOL BS degree