

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 (T. Mendelson) and then turned in to the honors administrator (N. Do).
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)¹.
 - 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 must write short abstracts for 6 of these seminars, to be evaluated by the faculty mentor and turned in to the honors administrator.
 - 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, graded by the mentor, and turned in to the honors administrator.
 - 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), UMBC's Summer Undergraduate Research Fest, or the fall Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences. A copy of the presentation must be turned in to the administrator.

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 approve seminar abstracts.
5. Supervise writing of thesis; coordinate with honors degree coordinator and administrator for final approval.
6. Supervise student presentation at public forum.

III. Formal Recognition of Achievement

1. Transcript notation ("Departmental Honors")
2. Curriculum Vitae notation
3. Departmental Honors in Research graduation regalia cord to wear at Commencement
4. Recognition at CNMS Student Recognition Day

¹ A one-semester combination of BIOL 499L + BIOL 499 (2 credits minimum) may be used to substitute for 497H
Note: The Honors BIOL 499/497H sequence may be used for a 3XX Lab elective requirement for the BIOL BS degree.