

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 140, BIOL 141, 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 online form (at <https://biology.umbc.edu/departments/honors/>) *at least 12 weeks before expected graduation*. Form must be completed by the student and approved by the faculty mentor. Honors degree faculty coordinator (T. Mendelson) and Program Administrator (F. Johnson) will evaluate the application and inform students of acceptance into the program.
3. Three or more semesters **BIOL 499**: Independent Research in Biological Sciences (minimum total of 6 credits, pass/fail) in the laboratory of a Biological Sciences faculty member.
4. One semester **BIOL 499H: Undergraduate Laboratory/Field Research - Honors** (1 credit, asynchronous, fall or spring)
 - A. Students attend 12 scientific (e.g., departmental) seminars. Each student must write 1-2 page summaries of 6 of these seminars, to be submitted to the Blackboard site and evaluated by the honors administrator.
 - B. 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 the faculty honors coordinator.
 - C. 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.

OR

One semester **BIOL 499L: Undergraduate Research Seminar** (1 credit, synchronous, spring only)

- A. Students attend class and turn in assignments weekly to obtain feedback on written and oral presentations.
- B. 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 the 499L instructors.
- C. Students present results of their project in the form of three in-class presentations throughout the semester.

II. Faculty Mentor Responsibilities

1. Verbally approve student's application for Departmental Honors in Research before student applies. Faculty Honors Coordinator will reach out via email for subsequent approval.
2. Provide permission for student to register for 3 semesters of 499.
3. Supervise independent research project over the course of 3+ semesters.
4. Supervise writing of honors thesis.
5. Supervise student presentation at public forum (499H).

¹Note: for a 3XX Lab elective requirement for the BIOL BS degree

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

¹*Note: for a 3XX Lab elective requirement for the BIOL BS degree*