

GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATION WITH HONORS IN BIOLOGY

APPROVED 12/11/96

In order to recognize students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance and a capacity to conduct independent research, the Department of Biology offers graduation with honors. Graduation with honors requires forethought and planning. The student must be willing to explore a topic in more detail and commit more time than most would be willing to give.

Requirements for graduation with Honors in Biology:

1. 3.5 GPA in Biology and 3.0 overall GPA
2. Minimum of 5 credits in research (BIOL 595). BIOL 295 credit will be accepted if it can be demonstrated that the BIOL 295 research was conducted on the same topic as the BIOL 595. (*see below)
3. A thesis based on a lab or field research project conducted by the student.
4. Oral presentation of the thesis research at a biology seminar.

NOTE: The thesis and the oral presentation will fulfill the equivalent requirements of BIOL 491. However, other course requirements, such as evaluations of speakers, must still be fulfilled.

Application process:

1. A student is eligible to apply for Honors in Biology after having junior standing, and a Biology GPA of 3.5. Although not required at the time of application, a 3.0 overall GPA will be required at graduation.
2. The student must identify a faculty member who is willing to act as their Research Advisor. The Research Advisor will arrange for and direct the student's research. The student must apply for Honors through the Research Advisor.

Supervision and evaluation:

1. The student's progress on the project will be supervised by an Honors Committee consisting of the Research Advisor and two additional faculty members selected by the Research Advisor. The student will submit a plan of research for approval by all three members of the committee.
2. The Research Advisor will contact the Academic Advisor to verify the required grade point averages. The Honors Committee will be responsible for evaluating the thesis and oral presentation.

Recognition for student:

1. Have "Honors in Biology" printed on the transcript.
2. Recognition at appropriate university ceremonies.

*BIOL 295/595 courses do not satisfy A or B elective requirements for the Biology degree. A maximum of six credits can be applied toward the total credits needed for graduation.