

Biology Honors/Senior Thesis

Chair: Dr. K. Major

Biology Honors Committee Members:

Drs. L. Frost, J. Henning, K. Major, J. Mata, J. McCreadie, J. Perez, and J. Strickland

Revised Spring 2022

The key difference between University Honors and “Senior Thesis” programs is the GPA requirement. By the Junior year, Senior Thesis students must maintain a 3.0, while Honors students must maintain a 3.5 GPA to remain in their respective programs. The Department of Biology requires **three** semesters of research, including prospectus development (HON 301), one local (e.g., USA Annual Research Forum) or regional presentation of scholarly work, and the public defense of a final thesis toward the completion of the Honors diploma. All research and project milestones are to be overseen and approved by a three-member Advisory Committee, comprised of the student’s mentor, a member of the Biology Honors Committee (BHC), and one additional faculty member (inside or outside the Department).

Semester 1

- University Honors (HON 301)
- Identify Mentor
- Identify Project Topic and Research Question
- Advisory Committee Formation
- Project and Prospectus Development
 - Formatting for prospecti and theses are dictated by discipline; successfully presented/defended examples of prospectus/thesis documents can be provided by Dr. K. Major.
- Draft of Prospectus to Advisory Committee for Review
 - Two weeks BEFORE FINALS
 - First Advisory Committee meeting
 - Provide update/Biology Honors Progress Report to committee members
 - Forward Copy of Signed Form to: K. Major, Chair BHC
- Consider applying for Sigma Xi research funding...

Semester 2

- Enroll in 1-3 h Honors Thesis (BLY 499) or Directed Studies (BLY 494)
 - One BLY 499 may count as a “W” course to fulfill one of two writing requirements
- Begin research, if not begun at this point
- Meet with Advisory Committee
 - Two weeks BEFORE FINALS
 - Advisory Committee meeting
 - Advisory Committee Signs FINAL Written Prospectus
 - Forward Copy of Signed Biology Honors Progress Report Form to: K. Major, Chair BHC
 - Forward Copy of Signed Prospectus to: K. Major, Chair BHC
AND K. Cooke, Director, University Honors College (UHC)

NOTE: To advance in this program, the prospectus MUST BE COMPLETED by the END OF THE SECOND SEMESTER.

- Consider summer research programs: SURF, REU, etc.

Semester 3

- Enroll in 1-3 h Honors Thesis (BLY 499) or Directed Studies (BLY 494)
- Months 1/2:
 - Finish data collection and analysis
 - Continue writing thesis document
 - Begin preparing talk/poster for Senior Honors Showcase
- Months 3/4:
 - Finish draft written thesis document
 - Forward thesis to Advisory Committee for feedback
- Public Thesis Defense
 - Schedule thesis defense – TWO WEEKS BEFORE FINALS
 - Consult with Advisory Committee, Drs. K. Major, K. Cooke, D. Marshall, and Mr. A. Sells
 - SOMEONE FROM THE HONORS COLLEGE MUST BE PRESENT AT THE DEFENSE (UNIVERSITY HONORS)
 - Generate and distribute flyers
 - Reserve room and any needed audio/visual equipment
- Final Thesis
 - Advisory Committee Signs FINAL THESIS Document
 - Forward Copy of Signed Document to: K. Major, Chair BHC
AND K. Cooke, Director UHC