

Requirements for Obtaining an Honors Distinction in Biological Sciences

These are the requirements for earning an Honors Distinction in Biological Sciences:

1. You must have an overall cumulative GPA of at least 3.3.
2. You must have completed or be currently enrolled in at least 20 credit hours of course work in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics prior to being accepted in the Honors Program.
3. Identify a research mentor and a research problem.
4. Complete the [Application for Admission to the Departmental Honors Program](#). Submit the application electronically to David Setzer (setzerd@missouri.edu), the Honors Director in Biological Sciences.
5. Obtain and complete the form "[Guidelines and Agreement for Undergraduate Research in the Division of Biological Sciences](#)." This form requires signatures of both your research mentor and the Honors Director (David Setzer, 410 Tucker Hall). The completed form, with signatures, should be submitted to Carol Martin or Kirsten Pape in Tucker 3, who will confirm your GPA and pre-requisite course work. After both the "Guidelines and Agreement" form and the Honors Application have been approved by the Honors Director, and your GPA and pre-requisite course work have been confirmed by the BioSci advising staff, you can obtain permission in Tucker 3 for enrollment in Bio 4950H/4952H.
6. Complete a total of at least 6 credit hours in Bio 4950H and Bio 4952H (Honors Research in Biological Sciences). Except in unusual circumstances and by special permission of the Honors Director, this research should extend over a period of at least two semesters (the summer counts as a semester) and should include at least three credit hours per semester. In general, you should expect to spend 4-5 hours per week per credit hour on the research project. Except in special circumstances that require approval of the Honors Director, both semesters of your research project must be carried out under the supervision of a single mentor.
7. Near the end of the research project, you must complete a presentation of your research project and its results. Generally, this will consist of a written paper prepared in the format of a scientific journal article, or, more commonly, as a poster presentation at a campus-wide event or a scientific conference. Although it is common to have multiple collaborators on a project, the final presentation, be it paper or poster, must be primarily yours. In some cases, an oral presentation may suffice, but there are limitations on the acceptability of an oral presentation, and any oral presentation that you intend to use to satisfy this requirement must be approved in advance by the Honors Director. In fact, it would be prudent to seek advance approval for any presentation you hope to use to satisfy this requirement. Final papers and poster

presentations should be submitted to the Honors Director for approval and display on this site.

Note that you may have the opportunity to make multiple poster or oral presentations of your work over the course of the research project. You are encouraged to take every opportunity to present your work to a broader audience. While the Honors *requirement* is for a single presentation, we hope that your interim progress is such that additional presentations of work in progress will be of value to both you and the broader scientific community.