

Honors in Biological Sciences (119:408, 409)

Deadline to Apply- Third Friday of the Semester

Key Requirements:

- Declared biological sciences major entering final year at Rutgers.
- Previous life science research experience required.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 required and Bio GPA of 3.4 required.
- A maximum of 6 credits of Research or Honors in Biology counts toward the Biological Sciences major.

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLY:

- **Discuss Conducting Honors in Biology with your current Faculty Research Mentor.** Discuss a new project or the continuation of your current project to complete over the fall and spring semester. Ensure that you fully understand what the expectations are before committing by confirming responsibilities, time commitment, and necessary prerequisites. Students must complete a minimum of 4-5 hours in the laboratory per week per registered credit of Honors in Biology. Students must complete a minimum of 3 credits during both the fall and spring semesters.
- **Prepare a 3-page research proposal, written by you, describing your research project for the full year.** The proposal must have a description of the background information necessary to understand and justify the work, a specific hypothesis to be tested, a detailed description of the data that you will collect, and a prediction about the results you will obtain. The proposal should also justify the number of credits for which you would like to register for. If you are unsure whether your research project is appropriate, meets departmental guidelines, or if this is your first time applying under our research courses, please feel free to contact Dr. Carr-Schmid (schmid@biology.rutgers.edu).
- **Initiate Fall Honors in Biology Contract Powerform.** You will need your Faculty Research Mentor's contact information for completion of the contract. Complete all indicated areas for Student Researcher. The power form contract goes next to the Faculty Research Mentor for approval and then to Dr. Carr-Schmid for final departmental approval. Please note that post-docs and graduate students MAY NOT serve as Faculty Research Mentors.
- **Once your application receives approval, you will receive an email from DocuSign indicating the contract is complete, and you will be able to view the finalized contract. Your course index number and spn to register will be provided on the last page of the contract.** If you complete this process before drop/add ends, you may register yourself. After the drop/add period, you must contact your SAS or SEBS Academic Advising Office (you can use their live chat) for assistance with registering for the course. Other courses dropped after drop/add will result in a W, so if you need the course to drop another, you must complete the application and receive approval and the spn before drop/add ends. Once registered for the course, please visit the CANVAS course site, and review any additional course information and deadlines.

Additional Guidelines and Requirements:

- The student's honors research project requires approval by the Director of Advising for Biological Sciences and revisions of the proposal may be necessary.
- The deadline to apply is the third Friday of the semester you want to enroll. Students should submit paperwork by drop/add deadline if registration in the course is required to avoid a W for dropping a placeholder course.
- Students receive training and supervision and must be active participants in their research project.
- Group projects are not acceptable.
- Research projects may not involve the use of human subjects.
- Any necessary research safety training and animal use training (if applicable) in compliance with school policies are the responsibility of the Faculty Research Mentor.
- Students must complete at least 4-5 hours per week per registered credit.

- Student researchers may not receive financial compensation or receive credit through another department/program for any hours applied toward Research in Biology credit hours.
- Students participating in Aresty Research program for credit may submit their proposal for evaluation and if accepted, complete the research contract and switch registration over to Honors in Biology. If they complete the requirements for the Honors in Biology, it can count toward the Biological Sciences major.
- Completion of Honors in Biology may fulfill the capstone requirement for the Honors College or SAS Honors program.
- SEBS students completing GH COOK should register for GH COOK course and complete and submit the GH COOK SCHOLARS' APPLICATION FOR HONORS IN BIOLOGY CONTRACT (see Research for Credit site) and include their proposal for their project for approval.
- Students must complete all Honors in Biology requirements to earn departmental honors.

For Fall Semester:

- An Honors in Biology contract and 3-page proposal must be submitted and approved to register for the fall semester.
- Students must submit a minimum of 10 pages written, graded paper (guidelines provided on canvas course site).
- Students must complete a 1–3-minute video about their research project, designed for general audiences, which is due at the fall semester mid-point (guidelines on the Canvas course site).
- A rough draft of the final paper must be prepared one week in advance of the due date and submitted to both the research mentor and through the Canvas course site.
- The final version of the paper, graded by the Faculty Research Mentor, is due by the second (or only) reading day at the end of the semester and must be submitted to the Canvas course site.
- The Faculty Research Mentor will receive a grade sheet and rubric to complete assessment.

For Spring Semester:

- A new Honors in Biology contract is required for registration for spring, but a new proposal is not necessary unless the project has significantly changed from the original fall proposal.
- A written 30–50-page thesis (according to guidelines provided on the Canvas course site) is due by mid-April.
- A 30–60-minute thesis presentation to the three-member thesis committee must be completed by mid-April.
- Specific deadlines and requirements will be provided to students on the Canvas course site.
- Students may enroll in our 1 credit Honors Communication in Science course (01:119:410) for assistance with thesis paper and presentation preparation. This course does not count toward the Bio major requirements.
- The three-member thesis committee will complete the thesis evaluation of both the oral presentation and written thesis. Additional guidelines will be provided to the students and committee members.
- The Faculty Research Mentor will evaluate the student's laboratory efforts each semester and determine the final grades for the Honors in Biology courses.
- Questions or concerns should be directed to the course coordinator, Dr. Carr-Schmid (Schmid@biology.Rutgers.edu).