

## Biology Honors Program

The Department of Biological Sciences offers a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors to undergraduate students when they graduate with a 3.5 overall GPA and a 3.5 accumulative GPA in biology courses taken at BGSU.

In addition to the grade point requirements, the Biology Honors degree requires 9 Departmental Honors credit hours from the following courses:

BIOL 4700H (1) Readings – Honors section (may be repeated, but only 2 credit hours will count toward major)

BIOL 4010H (1-4) Introduction to Biological Research – Honors section (may be repeated, but only 4 credit hours will count toward major)

BIOL 4020H (3) Honors Thesis – approved public presentation of research required

*Note: Talk with potential faculty mentors before completing the paperwork to register for these classes. To register for these courses, please visit the Honors College (024 Founders).*

If you are interested in the Biology Honors Program, please decide on the area of your research interest and contact the faculty member in that area to get started.

During your sophomore or early junior year, you will develop a research project with the help of a faculty mentor. The research project and thesis will be significant in scope and will require good planning and sufficient time for completion prior to graduation. *The following is a sequence of events for the Biology Honors Program:*

1. Talk with faculty mentor and establish an idea for a research area.
2. Register for BIOL 4700H and BIOL 4010H. This will get you into the literature and into the lab (visit the Honors College after you have found a faculty member to approve these courses to complete the course registration).
3. Submit a research proposal to the Department Honors Committee for approval during your first semester of the program. The research proposal must be at least 1000 to 1500 words clearly stating hypothesis and experimental design.
4. Continue to take BIOL 4700H and BIOL 4010H while completing the research project.
5. Register for BIOL 4020H (3 credits) during final semester. Course registration is done through the Honors College with the approval of the Biology Honors Committee Chair, who will make sure your thesis is complete and schedule the required presentation.

*Note: It is your responsibility to do this or your name will not be printed in the commencement program.*

- a. Prepare a written thesis of the research project. Thesis must be written in the form of a manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.
  - b. Present the research project in an approved public form (i.e., Tri-Beta Convention, Sigma Xi, Ohio Academy of Sciences, Departmental presentation). This presentation can be in the form of an oral or poster platform and presented at the University Undergraduate Research Retreat or the Spring Honors Reception held by the Department of Biological Sciences.
6. Submit the Check Sheet for Department Honors in Biology (see next page) for signatures and turn in to the Biological Sciences Honors Committee Chair's mailbox, room LSC 217.

Typical timeline for the Biology Honors Program:

1. Talk with mentor – Sophomore or Junior year
2. Register for BIOL 4700H and BIOL 4010H – Junior year
3. Submit research proposal – Junior year
4. Work on research project – Junior and Senior years
5. Write thesis (BIOL 4020H) – last semester
6. Present project (BIOL 4020H) – last semester

# Check Sheet for Departmental Honors in Biology

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ BGSU ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: It is your responsibility to do this or the Biological Sciences Departmental Honors achievement will not be printed on your diploma or transcript.*

**Requirements** – Must earn an A or B in the following course work:

- Biology 4700H (1-2 hours)
- Biology 4010H (5-6 hours)
- Biology 4020H (3 hours)
- Must total 9 hours, must submit final project proposal, and must submit final copy of thesis.

<b>Biology Honors Class</b>	<b>Credit Hour</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Semester</b>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## **Submission and Approval of Proposal Topic (must occur *BEFORE* registering for BIOL 4020H)**

Biology Honors Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Biology Honors Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

## **Final Submission of Honors Thesis and Public Presentation**

Biology Honors Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Biology Honors Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Questions? Contact Dr. Vipa Phuntumart, [vphuntu@bgsu.edu](mailto:vphuntu@bgsu.edu) or room 129 LSC Bldg., or Dr. Ray Larsen, [larsera@bgsu.edu](mailto:larsera@bgsu.edu), room 431 LSC Bldg.