

## Fayetteville State University's Honors Program in Biology

The purpose of the Honors Program in Biology is to allow exceptionally able, ambitious, and self-motivated students to do independent, original research in biology as well as increase their knowledge and skills in specific areas of biology.

- 1.) **Admission.** Students majoring in Biology (teaching or non-teaching) must complete an *Application for Admission* into the Honors Program ([uncfsuhonors.edu](http://uncfsuhonors.edu)), earn a minimum of 12 semester hours at FSU, and have a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.3. Applications are accepted only in the spring semester. In addition, the student must secure two letters of recommendation (one of which must be from a college faculty) and write a 250-500 word essay. Admission is based on the student's demonstrated Honors potential at FSU. Transfer students must not have more than 60 semester hours.
- 2.) **Courses.** A grade of "B" or better is required to earn honors credit for the course. (Failure to earn honors credit would not prevent a student from earning course credit with a final grade of "C" or "D"). The department requires that each student sign a contract for each honors course in the major. The contract explains the extra assignments and projects for the honors students enrolled in the course. To maintain eligibility to enroll in honors courses (or seek honors credit in regular classes), students must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.3 Grade Point Average with at least 12 earned hours per semester.
- 3.) **Service Learning Experiences, Events, and Other Extracurricular Activities.** Students in Honors Biology are assigned a departmental Honors Coordinator, who will design appropriate service learning experiences (internships, cooperative education, Study-Abroad, student conferences, etc.) in the program.

**Certification Requirements.** To graduate with Honors in Biology, a student must complete 30 hours of honors credit, 12 of which are at the University College level, and 18 of which are in the major, or upper division. The Biology honors student must choose and complete six honors courses of the following: BIOL 350 (Ecology/Evolution); BOTN 210 (General Botany); ZOOL 410 (Principles of Genetics); BIOL 325 (Molecular Biology); BTCH 340 (Toxicology); BICH 411 (Biochemistry); BTCH 350 (Adv. Biomol. Science); BTCH 450 (Problems in Biotechnology); BTCH310 (Immunology) ; and BIOL 430 (Special Problems). In consultation with the department Honors coordinator and the Honors Program director, the student must successfully complete at least three hours of independent research at the Honors level (Biology 430 above which is part of the 18 hours) and write an honors thesis that is approved by two Natural Science faculty and the Honors Program. The student must successfully defend the Honors thesis based on research.

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**Department Approval**  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Honors Program Approval**  
Date \_\_\_\_\_