Biology, BA

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in biology have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. The biology honors program introduces students to the pursuits of practicing scientists. Honors students associate with one of the department's research groups and participate in an independent research project guided by a faculty member (the research supervisor).

Biology honors students write a thesis based on an interesting biological problem, which is usually identified by the research supervisor. The thesis should clearly document that the student has acquired the necessary experimental skills to address specific questions and test specific hypotheses related to the research problem. Throughout undergraduate residence, departmental honors students may also enroll in courses with honors sections offered by the Department of Biology and other departments and programs.

To graduate with honors in the biology major, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- complete the requirements for a major in biology with a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 in all coursework in the major taken at the University of Iowa (including all biology courses and cognates in chemistry, biochemistry, mathematics, and statistics) and a cumulative University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33;
- complete 2 s.h. in either BIOL:4898 Communicating Research or a related approved course;
- complete a minimum of 6 s.h. (taken over two or more semesters) of BIOL:4999 Honors Research in Biology;
- write a brief research proposal summarizing the background and goals of their proposed honors research;
- upon completion of their research, submit an acceptable honors thesis; and
- give a brief oral presentation of their research findings to other biology honors students.

Students may apply 6 s.h. of BIOL:4999 Honors Research in Biology toward the required course with a laboratory and count the 2 s.h. earned in BIOL:4898 Communicating Research toward the elective requirement.

Biology majors interested in graduating with honors in the major should contact the biology advisor as early as possible, preferably during their sophomore or junior year, so that they may be matched with an appropriate lab. Visit Biology Honors Program to learn more about honors study in the department.

Students who are interested in the University of Iowa Honors Program satisfy the level two requirements when they satisfy the biology honors requirements; visit "University of Iowa Honors Program" in the following section.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Students who satisfy the requirements for honors in the biology major also satisfy the experiential learning requirement of the university honors curriculum.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the biology major.