

**Department of Biology
Eastern Michigan University**

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION WITH HONORS IN BIOLOGY

Department Head: Dr. Marianne Laporte

Honors Advisors: Dr. Kristi Judd (kjudd2@emich.edu)
Dr. Aaron Liepman (aliepman@emich.edu)

Admission Requirements

1. Minimum GPA 3.3 overall, 3.5 in major
2. Student must be a member in good standing of the University Honors Program.

Program Requirements

1. Maintain a minimum **GPA** of:
3.3 overall
3.5 for BIO courses counting toward major
3.3 in honors coursework
2. Complete at least 13 credit hours of **Biology Honors courses** beyond BIO110/120.
 - At least 3 credit hours must be in one of the 300-level core courses (see below).
 - Students are encouraged to use up to 6 credit hours of Undergraduate Research (BIO497, BIO498, and BIO499) for research that count as upper-level electives toward the major.
 - At least 1 credit hour of Undergraduate Research (BIO497) is tied to thesis completion.

Course Requirements

Credit Hours

a. Contract Honors in BIO301, BIO305, BIO306, BIO310, BIO311 or BIO315.	3
b. Contract Honors in Biology courses at the 300- or 400- level.	8
c. Undergraduate Research tied to completion of Senior Thesis	1
d. BIO477 in final semester	1
Total	13

3. Complete a **Senior Thesis**. The Senior Thesis is a scholarly report of original research conducted by the student, involving the generation of new data or the meta-analysis of existing data. It is not a review of the literature or an extended term paper. The student must demonstrate mastery of the science process. Thesis research begins in the Sophomore or Junior year. Arrangements for the thesis must be made with the faculty mentor and Honors Advisor no later than the second semester of the junior year. A formal Thesis Proposal should be submitted to the Honors Advisor before the start of the Senior year. The project will be presented at the Undergraduate Symposium or similar forum in the Winter semester of the senior year. BIO477 is a course focused on development and revision of the Honors Thesis. The final draft of the Thesis must be submitted to the Honors Advisor at least a month before the end of the semester the student expects to graduate.

Honors Options Available to the Student

1. independent study
2. contract honors
3. research assistantships
4. honors waivers
5. graduate courses for undergraduate credit