

**Department of Biology  
Eastern Michigan University**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION WITH HONORS IN BIOLOGY**

Department Head: Dr. Thomas Mast

Honors Advisors: Dr. Kristi Judd ([kjudd2@emich.edu](mailto:kjudd2@emich.edu))  
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**Admission Requirements**

1. Minimum GPA 3.3 overall, 3.3 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  
3.3 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, BIO498 or BIO499) is tied to thesis research.

<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
a. Honors (or contract) in BIO301, -305, -306, -310, -311 or -315.	3/4
b. Contract Honors in Biology courses at the 300- or 400- level.	2-7
c. Undergraduate Research related to Senior Thesis (BIO497, -498, or -499)	1-6
<u>d. BIO401 in final semester</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	at least 13

3. Complete a **Senior Thesis**. A Senior Thesis is a scholarly paper reporting of original research conducted by the student, involving the generation of new data or the meta-analysis of existing data. A Senior Thesis is not a review of the literature nor an extended term paper. The student must demonstrate mastery of the scientific process. Thesis research begins during the Sophomore or Junior year. A formal Thesis Proposal should be submitted to the Honors Advisor during January of the year before anticipated graduation (usually 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of Junior year for students graduating the following winter semester). The project will be presented at the Undergraduate Symposium or similar forum in the Winter semester of the senior year. BIO401 is a course focused on development and revision of the Honors Thesis. The final draft of the Thesis must be submitted by the due date stipulated in BIO401.

### **Honors Options Available to the Student**

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