

Application for Candidacy to the Honors Program in Biological Sciences

GUIDELINES and REQUIREMENTS for Honors

- **Proposal** : To be filed preferably during the 7th semester.

The project must be proposed and the plan outlined on this application form. The Faculty mentor and student should collaborate in composing the proposal and agree upon the plans. The proposal forms the basis for the BI 195/6 project, as well as for Honors.

The **Mentor** is the primary investigator in whose lab or area the research occurs, and who will be available to the student in guiding, discussing results and interpreting outcomes. The Mentor is expected to be a Brown faculty member, usually from the Division of Biology and Medicine.

The **Second Reader** will be a faculty member or associated scientist who is identified by the student and mentor as knowledgeable in the area of research. The Reader must agree to evaluate the thesis and participate in the review process that yields an evaluation of the work. The Reader should be identified at the time of the application or shortly thereafter, since applications will remain incomplete until this is determined.

- **Honors Thesis**

A thesis is a written document that chronicles the research project from historical background through methods, results and conclusions. It should represent the culmination of substantial work that generally requires 2 semesters or more of research activity.

The thesis must be completed so that the Mentor and Second Reader have time for adequate evaluation, and for potential revisions.

(There is a library of sample past Honors thesis in Rm 124 Arnold, so that students may get an idea of the scope of various types of projects)

- **Oral presentation**

Fulfilled by a Student- led seminar, lecture or Poster presentation at the conclusion of the project. If the Seminar format is chosen, the student will make arrangements for scheduling, room and invitations. If the Poster is chosen, the Biology Research Poster Day is the opportunity, and is scheduled for mid April.

- **Quality grades, and progress in the concentration program.**

Internal records will be utilized in this determination.

- **Evaluation**

Faculty Mentor and Second Reader will submit a written evaluation. Honors may be recommended if the work is assessed as Satisfactory or better, with agreed-upon expectations met. An **Honors evaluation form** for this purpose will be provided to the mentor and reader, and must be returned to the Office of Biology Undergraduate affairs in early May (exact dates are set annually).

- **DEADLINE:**

During first week in May, Dean Thompson will report to the University the names of all seniors who have completing Honors satisfactorily. This means that all the requirements of the project, thesis, presentation, and evaluation be completed prior to this. Students and mentors are charged with arranging the schedule so that this deadline can be met comfortably. Extensions of deadline may be made under extenuating circumstances only, and by Dean Thompson.

