



SIGMA XI, the Scientific Research Honors Society

TO: May 2010 Expected Grads who are Biological Sciences Concentrators in the following programs:

Biology, Human Biology, Bioengineering, Biophysics, Marine Biology, Applied Math-Biology, Computational Biology

NOTE: Biochemistry/Molecular Biology concentrators are handled separately by the Chemistry Department and no application form is used, ditto for Neuroscience concentrators.

FROM: Dean Marjorie Thompson

Sigma Xi is a national scientific honor society whose purpose is to encourage original investigation in science, pure and applied. It recognizes academic and research achievements in science at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Students who will graduate this spring may qualify for Associate Membership in the Brown University Chapter of Sigma Xi if they have demonstrated a high level of competence in science.

Attached is the application we use for screening candidates in BioMed programs.

Criteria for nomination are described on the next page. *If you think you qualify, file your application with me by the due date so you can be considered for election at a meeting in February. The induction ceremony and dinner for new members will be in the spring. Please include your courses and grades **up to the present.***

You may include science courses taken outside of Brown, but please indicate the school and location.

Please scroll down for application.

CRITERIA FOR SIGMA XI ELECTION

The traditional qualifications are:

1. A grade point average of 3.4* or better in the sciences (or the equivalent as documented by Course Performance Reports to be included with this form).

PLEASE NOTE: National Sigma Xi election criteria include a GPA minimum. However, at Brown, there is *no official GPA* computed. Therefore, please do this calculation of average based on the values as follows:

A = 4.0

B = 3.0

C = 2.0

S with distinction = 4.0

S = do not enter into the computation

Include *all* science courses taken in the following areas: Applied Math, Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Geology, Mathematics, Neuroscience, Physics, Computer Science, and Psychology.

Also:

2. 12 semester courses in sciences, and including courses at the elementary level.

and either:

3a. **2 courses beyond the elementary year level in a science other than the one in which the student is concentrating.

OR

3b. **3 courses, including courses at the elementary level, in two or more sciences other than the science in which the student is concentrating.

OR

3c. Involvement in a research project under supervision for at least one semester.

NOTE:

*If your GPA is close to this, and you have done research, please submit an application, anyway.

**These criteria are met automatically in any of our Biological Sciences concentration programs!

Students who have elected science courses on a satisfactory/no credit basis may be evaluated on criteria provided by instructors (CPR's useful here).

Print and use the attached application form.

3. Please compute GPA to the tenth for above courses, to date: _____ (A=4, B=3, C=2; omit S's); and also count:

Number of A's(or S*)_____; B's_____; C's_____; Ss_____.

4. List science courses to *be taken* during the upcoming spring semester:

5. If you have taken BIOL 1950 and/or 1960 (or are currently enrolled), or have had *any other research experience*, please check the space below and **attach a brief paragraph describing your work**.

___ Yes, I have done research.

___ I have not done research.