

Thesis Sponsor/Mentor Guidelines

- Two terms of independent research is the recommended minimum for students pursuing Honors. Prospective Honors Students should choose a sponsor by the end of their sophomore year. **If the chosen research mentor (PI) is not a research-active faculty member in the student's major's department(s), they will need to identify a "co-sponsor" from within the program.** The co-sponsor will evaluate the student's research proposal to ensure it is appropriate for the field.
- Students will complete at least two terms of independent research (usually via MCDB or EEB 300/400 or MICRO 399) depending on the field of study. Most students register for three or four terms of independent research, but a specific number of research credits is not required. A minimum of two terms of work in a research lab is the recommended minimum. **If you are a sponsor who is out-of-unit, the student will register for research credit under the co-sponsor's research section.**
- **The sponsor will be one of three thesis readers.** Students will also identify 1-2 additional readers, who agree to review their thesis. **Readers should be research-active faculty members in the student's major's department(s) with an understanding of the research topic.** Students need three faculty total to review their thesis.
- Readers will receive an email notification prompting them to submit their evaluation of the student's thesis. **All readers must agree to turn in their evaluations within 10 days of the thesis due date (April 10, August 10, or December 10 for winter, summer, or fall).**

Please note: The Biology Research Thesis Option has rules identical to the honors thesis, except that:

- 1) There is no minimum GPA (an honors thesis requires a GPA of 3.4 or better, both overall and in the major)
- 2) The diploma will not indicate that a non-honors thesis was successfully completed (but the transcript will indicate a grade for MCDB 461).

Thesis Sponsor/Mentor Eligibility

Student Major	Sponsor/Co-sponsor	Applicable Independent Research Courses
Biology or Plant Biology	EEB or MCDB research-active faculty	BIO 200 EEB 300/400 MCDB 300/400
Microbiology	EEB, MCDB, SPH, or Micro research-active faculty	BIO 200 EEB 300/400 MCDB 300/400 MICROBIOL 399 EPID 399 INTMED 499
MCDB	MCDB research-active faculty	BIO 200 MCDB 300/400
EEB	EEB research-active faculty	BIO 200 EEB 300/400
BHS	EEB or MCDB research-active faculty or faculty in BHS-related fields (*more information here).	BIO 200 EEB 300/400 MCDB 300/400 BIO 299*

*BIO 299 is only applicable for BHS students doing "interdisciplinary" research, not typical lab research. For those pursuing interdisciplinary research, either for honors or not, Bio 299 is the appropriate course if they want to register for credit. Since Bio 299 does not fulfill any specific requirements, it does not move students further along in their BHS requirements. Students are not required to register for research credit for honors, although they are required to *participate* in two terms of research to meet honors requirements.

For BHS students pursuing interdisciplinary research who want to register for Bio 299, or those pursuing an interdisciplinary honors thesis whether or not they register for credit, the Program in Biology Faculty Director acts as the co-sponsor (and is also the person who approves the research proposal as interdisciplinary). Students submit the proposal by applying through the honors application, which is then routed to the Faculty Director. These are not common since the vast majority of our students, BHS or otherwise, are pursuing traditional lab research.

Faculty Expectations for Independent Research and Thesis Support

	PiB Sponsor (PI)	PiB Co-Sponsor
BIO 200 EEB/MCDB 300/400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide on hours in lab and work outside of lab Determine how the student will be graded Check in with student or assign person in lab for “check-in” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the student’s work qualifies for independent research in the department Check in with student periodically Determine how the student will be assigned a grade
Honors/Non-honors thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure student applies before deadline* Check if student is using thesis for ULWR and fills out form Determine format Determine presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure project meets the criteria for a thesis in their major Make sure student applies before deadline* Check if student is using thesis for ULWR and fills out form Check in with student periodically on progress and back-up support for PI
<p>Non-biology faculty serving as thesis sponsors/mentors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check in with co-sponsor periodically Make sure student applies before deadline* Check if student is using thesis for ULWR and fills out form Determine format of thesis Determine presentation 		

*** Applications are due by the add/drop deadline of the semester before you plan to submit your thesis. (ie. Fall term if you plan to graduate in May.)**

Thank you for your contributions in mentoring/co-sponsoring our students.