

## Honors in Biology

To earn “Honors in Biology,” which will be printed on your diploma and in the graduation program, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Carry out a year of research at Case on the same project or related series of projects. You must take at least two of these: Biol 388, Biol 388S, Biol 390.
2. Write an honors thesis based on your year of research, and submit this paper to an *ad hoc* honors committee to consist of three Case faculty members, two of whom should be members of the Biology Department. The committee must be approved by the Chair of Biology.—
3. The thesis shall consist of a comprehensive report on the research project conducted by the student. The format for the thesis should be discussed with the Research and Biology Department Sponsor. In general, the thesis should be double spaced, and should include a thorough introduction covering the background and significance of the experiments, a description of the experimental methods, a clear presentation of results with figures and tables inserted at appropriate places, and a discussion section in which the student draws conclusions. A brief abstract should precede the body of the thesis.
4. It is the student’s responsibility to provide each member of the thesis committee and the Biology Chair with a draft copy of the thesis at least one week prior to the scheduled oral defense.
5. Present the thesis at an oral examination by your *ad hoc* honors committee. You should show mastery of the material within the thesis, mastery of the relevant literature, and should be able to explain and respond to criticisms of the experimental methods and results. If the defense is successful, an approval form signed by the committee members must be submitted to the Biology Department Chair.
6. Earn a cumulative total GPA of 3.4 or higher, and a cumulative average in your biology courses of 3.6 or higher. (Biology courses include only those with the letters BIOL, not related courses in other departments, and not courses required of the major that are not BIOL courses.) The GPA criteria must be met at the time of application for honors and must be maintained through graduation.
7. Notify the Biology Chair of your intention to pursue Honors in Biology, and obtain the chair’s approval of your honors committee, by the 6<sup>th</sup> week of the spring semester of your senior year. All requirements must be completed by one week prior to the last day of

classes in the spring semester.