UNM Biology Honors Application Form

Please complete this form in cooperation with the Primary Research Advisor who will supervise the student’s Senior Honors Thesis. The student should complete this form at the beginning of their project and submit it to Joshua Gallegos, Academic Advisor for Biology. Please include a copy of your LoboTrax degree audit. Joshua will provide general advice and will administer the student’s application to the point of ensuring that the student receives honors after completing all the requirements. Prospective honors students will be allowed to register for Biology 400, Senior Honors Thesis, only after (1) their applications have been processed, and (2) their faculty advisors have been given permission by Joshua to admit the student to the Honors Program.

Upon satisfactory completion of the requirements for Biology Honors, the Department of Biology will notify the Office of Registrar of the level (cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude) of honors to be awarded. The level is based largely on the quality of the thesis, the academic productivity and academic record, and in some cases exceeds the University-level of honors, which is based on the GPA.

Requirements:

1) Admission to the program requires (a) 3.2 GPA overall and (b) 3.5 GPA in UNM Biology*.
   *The GPA in UNM Biology is calculated based on all UNM Biology courses taken.

2) In addition, a student must have completed a minimum of 20 (total) hours of coursework in UNM Biology by the end of the first semester that the student is admitted into the Honors program.

3) Each honors student must identify a primary research advisor who supervises the student’s project. If the primary research advisor is not a faculty member of UNM Biology (e.g., faculty in UNM Health Sciences or other departments), then a secondary advisor who is a UNM Biology faculty member is required. Both the primary research advisor and secondary must read the submitted honors thesis and provide a recommendation on the level of honors to be awarded.

4) Each honors student must complete six hours of Biology 400. A maximum of four of these credits will be accepted toward the Biology credits required for the Biology major. Because enrollment is limited to a maximum of three credits of Biology 400 per semester, enrollment requires a minimum of two semesters of Biol 400.

5) A short (1-2 page) research proposal is required prior to registration for Biol. 400. Please work with your research advisor(s) to craft this proposal prior to submission.

6) Beginning Spring 2014, each honors student must complete a one-time, one credit “Honors Research Methods” course led by the Honors faculty advisors (Biol. 402) and taught during the Fall semester. Typically, this course would be taken one semester prior to the final semester of honors research. The course will help to guide you through the process of completing your thesis research, provide workshops on verbal and written scientific communication, and give opportunities for peer-led discussions and peer reviews.

7) A presentation is required at either a departmental or professional forum. Presentations at lab meetings do not satisfy this requirement. Many students present at the departmental Annual Research Day in the spring; state and national scientific conferences and meetings also qualify. Oral or poster presentations are acceptable. Please consult with Joshua Gallegos if you have questions about what types of presentation forums qualify.
8) **One semester prior to graduation**, you must notify the Academic Advisor for the Biology Honors Program (Joshua Gallegos) of your intent to graduate. Please send your notification by email to jgall014@unm.edu with the subject line “Intention to Graduate Biology Honors.”

9) At least **six weeks prior to graduation**: Submit one (1) electronic and one (1) printed copy of the thesis to the Biology Honors Academic Advisor (Joshua Gallegos, jgall014@unm.edu, paper copies to 63 Castetter Hall). The thesis will be read and results reported to the student prior to graduation.
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STUDENT NAME ____________________________________________

E-MAIL __________________________________________________________________________ STUDENT I.D. # ____________

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS _______________________________________________________

Expected Graduation Date ___________________________________________________________________

Plan for registration in Biol. 400

sem ___ hrs ___ sem ___ hrs ___ sem ___ hrs ___

1) PRIMARY RESEARCH ADVISOR

E-mail ___________________________ Signature ________________________________

2) SECONDARY ADVISOR (optional unless the Primary Research Advisor is not a Biology
Faculty member) _____________________________________________________________

E-mail ___________________________ Signature: ________________________________

Signatures indicate that those who signed will be available to read the thesis and to provide a
recommendation on the level of honors six weeks prior to the graduation date listed above.

PROPOSED THESIS TITLE: ___________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

THESIS PROPOSAL: Please provide a 1-2 page research proposal attached to this
application.

PRESENTATION: (Please enter the tentative date and venue, update Joshua Gallegos after
giving the talk or presenting the poster by providing a copy of your abstract or the title listing
from the meeting’s schedule.)

Author(s) ____________________________________________________________

Date __________________________

Title ____________________________________________________________

Venue (name of the meeting, city, state) ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

STUDENT’S SIGNATURE __________________________________________ DATE _____________