

Admission to the Program:

Please note that the 3.5 minimum GPA in the sciences must include 14 hours in the Biological Sciences or Marine Biology including at least two of the four required courses from FIU at the upper division, (ecology, genetics, cell biology and evolution). The overall GPA cannot be lower than 3.2.

Please apply during the month of May. Applications close in early June corresponding to the date of the end of summer A. We review applications in early June and accept a maximum of ten students.

Your application will include (1) an application form-see <http://biology.fiu.edu/undergraduate/> (2) a copy of your transcript that shows which upper division biology courses have been taken, and (3) a confirmation by separate memo that the sponsoring professor is willing to supervise your research NB: Your sponsor MUST be a full-time, tenured or tenure-earning faculty member in the Biological Sciences Department. The only mechanism for an exception is to enlist a member of this department who is willing to co-sponsor your research. Lastly, (4) your application must include TWO two-page (roughly 500-word) essays. Please describe yourself and your background including your rationale for applying to the honors program, what you hope to accomplish, and your future plans as a post-baccalaureate student. **Please note that the program is limited and application to it is competitive.** The committee may deny an applicant's admission, acceptable GPA and other qualifications notwithstanding. The decision of the committee to admit or not to admit to the program is final. It is required under normal circumstances that accepted students begin their research in their mentor's section of BSC 4915L beginning in Summer B of this year. Enrollment continues in the fall, and Honors Thesis begins in the last semester of the student's senior year.

No assignments are made for enrolling in the honors program. You examine the research interests of the faculty, decide on the best fit, and talk to those faculty to see if you might be able to work in their labs. In addition, you may also check on the MARC or RISE programs for support, probably for your senior year because application to these programs is normally completed during spring semester and requires letters of recommendation.

<http://mbrs.fiu.edu/MARCUSTAR/#> However, you may also talk to potential mentors about these programs because several of our faculty members are funded by them and provide support for their students, including undergraduates. In addition, there is a research/thesis component to the Honors College that is independent of the program in Biological Sciences. See <http://honors.fiu.edu/research/#arch>

Graduation with Honors in the Biological Sciences or in Marine Biology:

- During the timetable described above, register for BSC 4915L, Honors Research (1-3 cr.) under the direction of your thesis mentor. The mentor controls registration for this course.
- During spring (the student's last term) register for Honors Thesis BSC 4970 (3 credits)
 - a) a written account of the student's research is produced, and
 - b) a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation is given to the department.
 - c) electronic and physical copies of the thesis are approved by mentor, the Honors Committee and the chair of the department.

Honors Program Admission Form

Panther ID #:

Date: _____

First Name: _____

Middle Initial: _____

Last Name: _____

Overall G.P.A.

Proposed Graduation date (Year & Term)

Faculty Sponsor

*Please attach a **current** unofficial transcript when submitting this form. A minimum overall G.P.A. of 3.2 is required.*

*Applications and Enrollment in Honors Research are **required** during Summer A (or earlier if qualified) prior to your senior year.*

***This is a Requirement**
Faculty Sponsor must be a faculty member of the FIU Department of Biological Sciences. A memo of support must be submitted separately by the faculty sponsor.*

Tentative Title of Proposed Research Project

List of courses taken in the Biological Sciences
Please highlight upper division courses in **bold font**
Requirement: A minimum of 14 credit hours and 6 hours at 3000 level or higher, all with at least a GPA of 3.5

	<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>	<u>Grade</u>
<u>1</u>					
<u>2</u>					
<u>3</u>					
<u>4</u>					
<u>5</u>					
<u>6</u>					
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<u>18</u>					

Comments for Admissions Committee (not required):

Please complete the Essays on page 2&3 of this form.

In about 500 words, please describe yourself, including your rationale for applying to the honors program and your future plans as a post-baccalaureate student.

(In most cases, you should be able to copy and paste from your favorite word-processor)

Please pick one of the following topics and write a second essay:

- 1. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk, or ethical dilemma and its impact on you.**
- 2. Discuss some issue in the biological sciences of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.**
- 3. Describe a scientist who has had an influence on you, and explain why.**
- 4. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure.
How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?**