

# Department of Biology Honors Program

## Program Application

Due **Monday, November 27, 2023, 4:59PM**, to joelslade@csufresno.edu

Please direct all questions to the Honors Coordinator, Dr. Joel Slade  
joelslade@csufresno.edu

You are invited to participate in the Department of Biology Honors Program. The Honors Program provides you with the opportunity for advanced studies and interaction with a community of your intellectual peers and to work closely with a faculty mentor of your choosing toward the completion of a research project. The program requires a three-course commitment (1 unit per course), beginning with an Honors Research Methods taken in the second semester of the junior year, followed by a course in Peer Instruction taken in the first semester of the senior year and finally an Honors Colloquium taken in the second semester of your senior year. The Honors program will culminate with your honors thesis (3 units). In total, 6 units are required for completion of the Department of Biology Honors Program.

### Admission Requirements:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.5 (in last 60 units)
- Grades of B or better in BIOL 1A, 1B and 1BL, CHEM 1A and 1AL, CHEM 1B and 1BL, Statistics (MATH 101 or MATH 102), and Calculus (MATH 70 or 75), or their equivalents
- Currently enrolled at Fresno State (in your junior year)
- CV/Resume (maximum 2 pages)
- A maximum 500-word typed personal statement of purpose explaining why you wish to participate in the honors program
- A writing sample from recent college course assignment (can come from community college course)
- A copy of your current unofficial transcript
- A letter of recommendation/nomination on letterhead and signed by a Fresno State faculty member willing to serve as your mentor/adviser who can speak to your ability to successfully complete the honors program and to assist you with the successful completion of the honors thesis/project.
- Two additional letters on letterhead and signed from individuals who can address your ability and aptitude. The letters must also include how long they have known you.
- All mentors and those in support of the student must complete this google form, where they will upload their letters: <https://forms.gle/dNjSyg3n6jAKLtk48>
  - Letters of recommendation sent to Dr. Slade via email will **not** be considered.

Applications are accepted until **November 27** for Spring 2024. Questions should be sent to: **Dr. Joel Slade; joelslade@csufresno.edu**

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## APPLICATION FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

MAJOR:

MINOR:

CUMULATIVE GPA:

Please attach a CV/resume, personal statement, a substantial sample of your writing, an unofficial copy of your transcript, and completed recommendation form. Arrange for your letters to be sent by email to Dr. Joel Slade, Departmental Honors Coordinator, at: [joelslade@csufresno.edu](mailto:joelslade@csufresno.edu)

*Note: You do not need to use this template for your application. Just be sure to submit your document with all the information included above.*

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FACULTY MENTOR**

As the student's mentor, you and the honors student will design a research project that will make up the student's honors thesis. You should work with the student to ensure that their honors research experience is appropriately challenging and engaging. You should help the students with their course of study to maximize their research experience. This may be accomplished by suggesting units that can be selected from existing undergraduate or graduate courses in the major, independent study courses, or existing courses outside of the student's major. These courses would be in addition to the required 6-units that make up the Honor Program and thus cannot be required.

The Department of Biology honors program encourages students to cross the traditional disciplinary boundaries through study and practicum as well as through discussion with faculty and fellow students across the Department's various research foci. Honors students enjoy the many benefits of working closely with you, their mentor, toward completion of a research or creative project of his or her choice.