



Honors Concentration within the MCB major

The School of Molecular and Cellular Biology
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Fall 2009 Informational Meeting









MCB Honors Concentration

mcb

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-  Overview/Benefits
-  Requirements for Admission
-  Requirements for Completion
-  Requirements for Retention
-  Overlap with James Scholars Program
-  Application and Admission Process

Benefits of Honors

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- Designed for students considering professional or graduate school
- More interaction with faculty
- More contact with and exploration of material
- Cohort of honors students
- Smaller class size






Requirements for Admission

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-  Open to **MCB majors only**
-  Evidence of appropriate preparation for the MCB honors concentration **may** include:
 - ACT score of 29 or higher
 - Average GPA in college-level mathematics and science courses of 3.5 or higher
 - Motivation for honors work
-  Application and letter of recommendation required

Requirements for Completion

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-  Fulfill all requirements of the standard MCB Major
-  Complete Honors sections in **all** MCB Core Courses
 - Lecture Courses (250, 252, 354) have Honors Discussion sections (MCB 297). Earn 3 hrs Honors credit (AH, B+H, etc.) for course and 1 hr Honors credit for discussion.
 - Lab Courses (251, 253) have Honors Lab sections **and** Honors Lab Discussion (MCB 298). Earn 2 hrs Honors credit for lab and 1 hr Honors credit for discussion.



Requirements for Completion

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Upper-class Honors Courses (choose 4 or more)

- **One** additional 3-5 hour advanced MCB course from the Approved List of Advanced Courses for MCB Majors;
- Honors Project in **one** advanced MCB course from the Approved List of Advanced Courses for MCB Majors;
- MCB 290: Individual Topics (Undergraduate Research): must be taken for a minimum of 2 credit hours;
- MCB 492: Senior Thesis (may be applied to graduation with distinction);
- MCB 493: Special Topics in Molecular and Cellular Biology (only some special sections may apply);
- LAS 299: Study Abroad in MCB-approved discipline-specific programs only.
- Other options pending

Overlap with James Scholars

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Honors sections in MCB Core

- Honors sections in MCB 250/251/252/253/354 all count for James Scholar credit
- MCB 297 and 298 count towards total Honors hours earned

Upper-class Honors Courses


- Honors Project (completed as an HCLA) in an advanced MCB course from the Approved List—counts for JS credit
- MCB 492: Senior Thesis—may count for JS credit

Requirements for Retention

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-  To maintain good standing in the MCB Honors Concentration, students must do the following
- Maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative or a minimum 3.3 major GPA.
 - Complete the required MCB honors sections in the Core courses. (Requires grade of B- or better in course)
 - Take an average of one honors course per semester as upperclassmen.
 - Consult with the honors advisor at least once every semester to discuss progress toward fulfilling the Concentration.

Academic Integrity

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 Students in the MCB Honors Concentration are expected to adhere to the highest standards of Academic Integrity, as set forth in the Student Code (Article 1, Part 4). Students who are found to have been penalized under Article 1, Part 4 may be dismissed from the MCB Honors Concentration.

Diploma and Transcript

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 How will the Concentration appear on my Transcript?

- On your Diploma, your degree is:
Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences
- On your transcript, your major is:
Major in MCB, Concentration in MCB Honors

Application and Admission

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- 🧬 Applications for admittance to the Honors Concentration during Spring '10 will be accepted from **September 11-25** only.
- 🧬 Application is available on-line as a webform
- 🧬 Letter of recommendation must be submitted directly to Dr. Naidu by **October 2**.










Timeline

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-  Application deadline: September 25 (letters, Oct. 2)
-  Applications reviewed: ~Sept. 28-Oct. 6
-  Qualified applicants invited for Interviews: ~Oct. 7
-  Interviews conducted: ~Oct. 8-14
-  Admittance offers: ~Oct. 20
-  Acceptance required: Oct. 26
-  Priority registration begins: Nov. 2

What do I do now?

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- Apply via the webform:
<http://illinois.edu/goto/mcbhonorsp10>
- Have a letter of recommendation submitted to Dr. Shawna Naidu by **October 2**.
- If you make a mistake...
- Wait to be contacted

