



# Honors Concentration within the MCB major

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



## Spring 2009 Informational Meeting









# MCB Honors Concentration

mcb

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-  Overview
-  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. Earn 3 hrs Honors credit (AH, B+H, etc.) for course
  - 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.
- Honors Project in an advanced MCB course from the Approved List.
- MCB 290: Individual Topics (Undergraduate Research).
- MCB 492: Senior Thesis.
- Study Abroad in an MCB-approved discipline-specific program.
- MCB 493: Special Topics in Molecular and Cellular Biology (some sections 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 298 counts 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 B (3.0) average in all MCB courses.
  - 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.

# Changes Under Consideration

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 Currently under consideration:

- Alternate required courses, such as Bio-Calculus (in place of standard Calc. I), Bio-Statistics (in place of standard Stats).
- Greater minimum GPA requirements for retention, such as 3.5 cumulative **or** major GPA

 Changes would apply to newly admitted students only

# 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 Fall '09 will be accepted from **Feb. 5-20** only.
- 🧬 Application is available on-line as a webform
- 🧬 Letter of recommendation must be submitted directly to Dr. Naidu.









# Timeline

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-  Applications reviewed: ~Feb. 23-27
-  Qualified applicants invited for Interviews:  
~Mar. 2
-  Interviews conducted: ~Mar. 3-6
-  Admittance offers: ~Mar. 13
-  Acceptance required: Mar. 20
-  Priority registration begins: Apr. 6

# What do I do now?

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- Apply via the webform:  
<http://www.uiuc.edu/goto/mcbhonorsapplication>
- Have a letter of recommendation submitted to Dr. Shawna Naidu by the application deadline.
- If you make a mistake...
- Wait to be contacted

