MCB Honors Concentration

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MCB Honors Concentration

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- Who Can Apply?
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- Overlap with James Scholars Program
- Application and Admission Process
Designed for...

- students considering professional or graduate school
- students who want greater depth and breadth in their MCB major experience
- exceptional MCB majors who are personally motivated to seek out an honors opportunity.

Benefits of Honors

- More interaction with faculty
- Supplemental material and experiences
- Cohort of honors students
- Smaller class size
Who Can Apply? – changing your major

- The MCB Honors Concentration is a sub-category of the MCB major. You cannot be in MCB Honors and remain a Biochemistry or IB major, nor can MCB Honors be a double major with Biochem or IB.

- Biology (undecided) and MCB majors will be switched to MCB Honors once accepted—no additional steps are needed.

- Other majors must meet declaration criteria for MCB in addition to being accepted to MCB Honors and then must change their major to MCB Honors. Students outside of the College of LAS must also meet all requirements for ICT to LAS.

- Double majors/Dual degrees must make MCB Honors their primary major.
Who Can Apply? – coursework needed

- Ideally, you should have completed or be enrolled in MCB 150 on this campus in order to apply to the Honors Concentration.

- Transfer or proficiency credit for MCB 150 is allowed; however, AP credit will not be accepted as a substitute for MCB 150 for non-Biology majors.

- Grade in MCB 150 must be B+ or better.

- Grade in at least one Chemistry Lecture course must be B or better.
Who Can Apply? – year in school

- **Freshmen** should apply in the **Spring** semester:
  - Apply in Spring semester if planning to take MCB 250/251 in the Fall of your sophomore year (typical timeline).
  - Freshmen planning to take MCB 250/251 in the Spring may also apply in Spring (offset timeline).

- **Sophomores and Transfer students**: Apply as soon as possible, preferably before (typical timeline) or while (offset timeline) taking MCB 250/251.
Who Can Apply? – year in school

It **may** be possible to apply while taking later courses in the Core, but it will depend on the student’s ability to fit in all required coursework. Please see Honors Coordinator for your special circumstances.
Evidence of appropriate preparation for the MCB honors concentration *typically* includes:

- Grades (minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA)
- B+ or better in MCB 150
- B or better in any CHEM courses completed
- *Motivation for honors work*—determined via history, application essays, interview, etc.

Application and letter of recommendation required
Requirements for Completion

- Fulfill all requirements of the standard MCB Major
- Complete five 1 credit Honors Discussion sections
  - MCB 297 A, 297 B, 297 C (reading and critiquing primary research literature)
  - MCB 298 A, 298 B (Project-based, applications, team-work, creativity)
Requirements for Completion

**Typical Timeline:**

Take the following courses paired together:

- MCB 250 with 297A and MCB 251 with 298A preferably in same semester
- MCB 252 with 297B and MCB 253 with 298B preferably in same semester
- MCB 354 with 297C

**OffsetTimeline:**

Take the following courses paired together:

- MCB 252 with 297A and MCB 253 with 298A
- MCB 354 with 297B and 298B alone
- 297C alone

Other combinations are possible, but 297 A, B, and C must be taken in order and 298 A and B must be taken in order.
Requirements for Completion

Complete four or more Advanced Honors Courses
- undergraduate research
- senior thesis
- study abroad
- honors credit in advanced major coursework
- extra advanced coursework in the major
- approved advanced courses outside of the major

To maintain good standing in the MCB Honors Concentration, students must Maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative or a minimum 3.3 major GPA.
Overlap with James Scholars
(Consult LAS JS office as changes have been made)

Honors sections in MCB Core

- Students earn James Scholar Academic points for MCB Core courses taken concurrently with the 297 and 298 honors sections
- MCB 297 A, B, C and 298 A, B count towards total Honors hours earned for students accumulating hours for Latin Honors

Advanced Honors Courses

- Many other options will also earn academic JS points: MCB 290, MCB 492, and Honors Project or Section (completed as an HCLA) in an advanced MCB course from the Approved List
Requirements for Retention

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 Core MCB courses for Honors credit (grade of B- or better in course) and complete MCB 297 A/B/C and 298 A/B.
- Consult with the honors advisor at least once every semester to discuss progress toward fulfilling the Concentration.
Academic Integrity

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.
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
Applications for admission to the Honors Concentration during each semester will be accepted during the early part of the semester (dates posted on website).

Application will be available on-line as a webform.

Letter of recommendation must be submitted directly to Dr. Naidu in order to complete your application. See the webpage to download the form.
What do I do now?

- Consider who you will ask for a letter of recommendation.
- Apply via the webform by the deadline.
- Have a letter of recommendation submitted to Dr. Shawna Naidu by the deadline.
- If you make a mistake...
- Wait to be contacted.
30 Graduates in the last 2 years:

- 14 (47%) medical school (includes 1 MD/PhD)
- 8 (27%) graduate school (6 PhD, 2 MS)
- 1 Fulbright (plans MD/PhD)
- 1 Veterinary school
- 3 Research Assistants

- University of Georgia
- Midwestern University
- University of Illinois - Chicago
- University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
- Washington University in St. Louis
- University of Southern California
- St. Louis University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Washington University School of Medicine

**Washington University School of Medicine**

* my white coat means a lifetime of being true *