THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science
Okanagan Campus

Department of Biology
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Honours Thesis Policy

Through coursework and research experience, the Honours in Biology is an intensive program of study. Students who complete this program will have the ability to work independently and with a high level of competency. The course requirements are the same as in the Majors in Biology, Microbiology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, or Zoology, except students must complete 6 credits of BIOL 440 and present their findings in the form of a poster or seminar.

Admission Requirements:

- Fourth-year standing in Biology, Microbiology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, or Zoology.
- A minimum overall grade average of 75% over all courses completed.
- Enrolment in a research project and research supervisor approved by the Department of Biology Head.
- Permission of the Department Head and course supervisor.

Graduation Requirements:

- Completion of all course requirements for the Major
- A minimum overall grade average of 75% over all courses
- A minimum grade of 75% in BIOL 440
- A written thesis is required, with a public presentation of the thesis in the form of a poster or a seminar.

General Guidelines:

1. Students will normally be in the 4th year of their degree with a major in Biology, Microbiology, EEB or Zoology.

2. Students will identify and discuss a project with a potential supervisor in Biology.

3. If the primary supervisor is in another Department, and the student proposes to do honours in Biology, then a co-supervisor in the Department of Biology is required.

4. In consultation with the student, the primary supervisor will develop a course outline which indicates the course content, mark distribution, due dates, and other requirements. Course activities may include lectures, a review of literature, field work, or laboratory-based experiments. The supervisor and the student should discuss if an oral presentation or poster will be given.

5. The Honours Thesis Application form is found online at: https://ikbsas.ok.ubc.ca/student-resources/undergrad/student-forms/.

6. The course outline will accompany the application form for honours thesis. The Honours Thesis Course Outline Template is found online at: https://biology.ok.ubc.ca/about/staff-faculty-forms.

7. All honours thesis projects must be approved by the Department of Biology Head and the Associate Dean for students in the IKBSAS.

8. Students engaged in projects involving lab work or hazardous material must obtain all required safety certificates (e.g., WHMIS, biosafety, animal care certification) and permits prior to starting the work. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure all safety procedures are followed.

9. If sufficient funds are available the Department Head will endeavour to equitably reimburse undergraduate directed studies and honours thesis projects for supplies needed for the project. Ceiling amounts will be determined annually by the Department Head. Funding for posters for Directed Readings projects may be available but is not guaranteed.

10. Students or supervisors experiencing difficulties with each other that cannot be resolved should contact the Department Head.