

More details on the Honors in Biology process

1. Students considering an Honors Project in Biology should discuss their interests and career goals with their academic advisor (or biology professors). The advisor will suggest one or more faculty in the Biology department who would be suitable mentors in the area of interest. Students can also identify possible mentors by consulting the web pages of the CNSM student research program. The student should then make an appointment with prospective mentors to discuss possible projects.
2. The student and faculty mentor will together develop a plan for initiating a project. Often the faculty mentor will suggest possible projects or promising areas of investigation. The student will often read relevant articles together with the faculty mentor. A brief research proposal will be submitted to a Biology faculty advisory committee selected by the student and the faculty mentor. The advisory committee will consist of 2 or 3 faculty in Biology or other suitable fields that have expertise useful for the project and agree to serve (upon invitation by the student). The advisory committee with the faculty mentor as Chair will review the proposal and provide suggestions. If the advisory committee approves the proposal the student will earn Biology elective credit through the capstone research experience BIOL 4285 (the student may elect to receive more credit –up to 4 hours- if desired). The student may then submit grant proposals to obtain funding for the project and/or salary for the student. Funds are available from UCA and external sources (e.g. [SURE](#), Sigma Xi, Arkansas Native Plant Society, etc.).
3. The research project may be completed during the academic year and/or summer. Honors students are required to earn a minimum of 2 hours of undergraduate research credit.
4. Upon completing the research project, the student will prepare a final written report to submit to the faculty advisor for suggestions and then to the entire advisory committee for review. The reports are typically modeled after research articles with introduction, methods, results and discussion sections. The student will also give an oral presentation open to the public and defend the project to the advisory committee after the presentation.
5. The advisory committee will review the final oral and written reports and then provide a recommendation to graduate with Honors. A positive recommendation results in signatures of advisory committee on thesis cover page. The student must have at least a 3.25 grade point average in Biology courses to graduate with Honors in Biology.