

School of Biological Sciences

HONORS PROGRAM

The SBS offers an Honors Program for qualified BS seeking undergraduate students interested in pursuing rigorous preparation for advanced professional training and careers. The program requires high levels of academic achievement as well as an undergraduate research experience and other enrichment activities. The SBS Honors Program is separate and distinct from the [UMKC Honors College](#).

ADMISSIONS

1. Freshman students may be accepted into the undergraduate honors program if they have a score of over 1300 on the SAT (1360 on the recentered SAT) or 30 on the ACT, and are in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. New freshmen may apply by contacting the SBS undergraduate Advisers.
2. Eligible students may also be admitted to the undergraduate honors program at the end of their freshman year or later (until the beginning of their junior year or 70 credit hours). Current UMKC or transfer students may apply by contacting the SBS undergraduate Advisers.
3. Requirements for admission at the end of the freshman or sophomore years for UMKC students or transfer students include:
 - a. A 3.5 minimum undergraduate grade point average (GPA).
 - b. A 3.5 undergraduate GPA in sciences/mathematics.
 - c. Satisfactory progress in the BS degree program, minimally including completion of CHEM 211 and 212R, Math 210 or 216, STAT 235, and BIOL 108 and BIOL 109 or equivalents, with grades of B or better.
4. An interview to explore the student's interests and identify an appropriate faculty mentor.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Completion of all the BS degree requirements.
2. Satisfactory completion of at least two semesters (4 credit hours total) of undergraduate honors research LRS 499M with grades of B or better.
3. A 3.5 UM GPA; 3.5 science/mathematics UM GPA.
5. Satisfactory completion of an undergraduate (senior) research thesis.

PRIVILEGES

Students in the honors program will receive the following privileges:

1. Be assigned an individual faculty Adviser/mentor.
2. Be included in all scholar and social events of the SBS graduate program.
3. Be included in the honors program listings of the SBS.
4. Have the fact that they graduate with Honors listed on their official UM transcript and diploma.

RETENTION

1. Students must maintain a 3.5 minimum UM cumulative GPA and a 3.5 minimum Math-Science GPA to be in good standing in the honors program.
2. Should either the cumulative or Math-Science GPA drop below 3.5, but not below 3.2 at the end of any given semester, the student will be retained in the honors program for an additional semester. The student must restore the GPA to the 3.5 minimum by the end of the next semester. A student who has less than a 3.2 cumulative UM GPA at the end of any semester will be dropped from the honors program.
3. Students must make satisfactory progress in the Honors Program, as determined by the SBS Academic Standards Committee, in order to be retained in the program.