

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES HONORS PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 2018 AND MAY 2018 EXPECTED GRADUATES

Optional Info Sessions (Duplicate sessions - attend just one)

- Thursday, March 16, 2017, G64 Goldwin Smith Hall, 4:45-5:30 pm
- Friday, April 14, 2017, G64 Goldwin Smith Hall, 12:20-1:15 pm
- Applicants are encouraged to attend one of the 2017 Honors Symposia in May. The schedule is published on [OUB Home page](#) in spring.

Program Information

- Website: <https://biology.cornell.edu/research/honors>
- Application: <https://biology.cornell.edu/research/honors/application>
- Application Deadline: Thursday, June 1, 2017

The 2017-2018 Honors Committee

| Research Group | Group Leader | Phone | E-mail |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Animal Physiology | Professor Ellis Loew | 607-227-1723 | erl1 |
| Biochemistry | Professor Gerald Feigenson | 607-255-4744 | gwf3 |
| Ecology and Evolutionary Biology | Professor Kelly Zamudio | 607-254-4212 | krz2 |
| Genetics and Development | Professor Michael Goldberg | 607-254-4802 | mlg11 |
| Microbiology | Professor Eugene Madsen | 607-255-2417 | elm3 |
| Molecular and Cell Biology | Professor Yuxin Mao | 607-255-0783 | ym253 |
| Neurobiology and Behavior | Professor Christiane Linster | 607-254-4351 | cl243 |
| Plant Biology | Professor Wojtek Pawlowski | 607-254-8745 | wp45 |
| Honors Program Coordinator | Colleen Kearns | 607-255-5233 | cmk4 |
| Honors Program Assistant | Pamela Torelli | 607-255-6859 | plr2 |

Admission to the Honors Program

Any CALS major may apply to Biology Honors if the research has sufficient biological content. Check with the Honors Faculty Coordinator in your major if you are not sure. See <https://cals.cornell.edu/academics/student-research/honors>.

Students in Arts & Sciences must do Honors in their major.

Application and Program Requirements

- Completion of at least 30 Cornell credits or junior status as a transfer student
- January 2018 or May 2018 expected degree date
- Completion of the [Biological Sciences Honors Program application](#)
- 1-2 page Honors research proposal
- At the time of application and throughout the program, overall cumulative Cornell GPA of at least 3.0, **and** at least a 3.0 cumulative Cornell GPA in all biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics courses. Interested candidates with GPAs below 3.0 are welcome to make an appointment to discuss options with Colleen Kearns, Honors Program Coordinator.

Students work with a current Cornell faculty member who agrees to oversee their Honors research. Students may work with any faculty member on campus as long as the content of the project is biological in nature. The Honors Committee will evaluate all proposals for sufficient biological content at the time of application. Thesis supervisors should not be on sabbatical leave in spring of the graduation year.

Accepted students will be assigned to the Honors Research Group that is the best fit for the content of their project. Each research group will have a mandatory meeting towards the end of fall semester or in January. At this time, students will informally present on the nature of their project and the relevant technical procedures. In the spring semester, candidates attend a *second mandatory meeting* with Colleen Kearns, Honors Program Coordinator, to go over the process for thesis submission.

Students will submit their thesis in early April and give a public presentation of their research in an Honors Symposium at the end of the semester.

Financial Support for Honors Projects

Limited funding may be available to help purchase supplies for honors research. Students should consult their research advisor to identify research expenses for reimbursement.

- Agriculture and Life Sciences students may complete the [Proposal for CALS funding](#) which is accepted in the fall.
- Students in the College of Arts and Sciences may complete the [Proposal for Arts and Sciences funding](#) which is accepted on a rolling basis.

The Thesis

The thesis should be written in the form of a research manuscript for a leading journal in the disciplinary area of research. See the [thesis guidelines](#) for detailed information. Students can work with their supervisor to identify a journal in their field. In general, the thesis should consist of an abstract, short introduction, relevant materials and methods, a concise presentation of the meaningful data and a discussion of the conclusions that does not delve into inappropriate speculation. Typical theses are about 20 to 30 pages double-spaced, not counting figures. Students should seek guidance of the research supervisor and conduct a thorough literature search on the topic. While an extensive literature review should not be included in the thesis, we expect students to indicate in the discussion and conclusion how the results and findings contribute to scientific understanding and/or advancement of the problem. Although the research supervisor must decide if the results are sufficient in quality and/or reliability to justify their presentation in an Honors thesis, the ultimate responsibility for the thesis is the student's. Examples of previous theses are available online at <http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu>.

Honors Presentations

All Honors Candidates will give a public presentation of their research at the end of the spring semester. The presentation will either be at a scientific poster session or a 10-minute talk in a department seminar. Dates of presentations will be announced in late March 2018.

Level of Honors

The Honors Faculty Committee meets in May to formally accept the theses and award the level of Honors. Recommendation to the faculty that a candidate graduate with honors is the responsibility of the Honors Program Committee. The quality of the thesis, as judged by the reviewers and the Honors Group Leader, along with the student's final grade point average will determine the level of honors awarded. Students in the College of Arts and Sciences will be awarded Latin honors for their work. Students in CALS will receive *Distinction in Research*, with no level recorded on their diploma.