

Introduction and Overview

Application for Honors Candidacy Programs in the Biological Sciences

Intended for students in the following concentrations: **Biology AB | Biology ScB |
Health & Human Biology AB | Biophysics ScB**

Note: **Students concentrating in **Applied Math-Biology** apply for honors based on the appointment of their Thesis Advisor.** If that advisor is in a Biology dept., please apply using this Biology application. Students whose thesis advisor is in Applied Mathematics should apply via Applied Math. Students whose advisor is not with either department can contact either [Matthew Harrison](#) or [Dean Achilli](#) for more information.

Concentrators in **Biochemistry** apply via Biochemistry advisors; **Computational Biology** students apply via CCMB; **Biomedical Engineering** concentrators proceed via Engineering.

As per University policy, students may not use the same thesis to gain honors in more than one concentration. If pursuing honors in two concentrations, the theses must be fully distinct in content.

Quality Grades:

Students who have earned a majority of "A" grades in courses required for the concentration and who are in good academic standing are eligible to apply for honors at the start of their penultimate (typically 7th) semester at Brown.

Courses not taken at Brown will not be included. Classes taken S/NC will count

as qualifying towards that majority if they are marked "S with distinction" indicating that had the student taken the course for a grade, the grade would have been an "A". *Please note that "S with distinction" is not visible on the Brown transcript or in ASK. Please inquire with the Registrar or Student Affairs.)* Grades earned in penultimate semester concentration courses will be accounted for in the determination of quality grades. Students with outdated declarations will not be evaluated until their ASK declaration has been updated and approved.

Honors Applicants:

The completed application will be forwarded to your Thesis Advisor and Second Reader—be sure that BOTH signatures have been submitted via this form *by the first Monday in October for **May graduates**; and by the first Friday in March for **December graduates**.* Applicants will be notified of acceptance as an honors candidate within two weeks after the application deadline. Further details on the Honors in the Biological Sciences can be found on the Biology Undergraduate Education [Honors webpage](#).

Instructions:

Section 1 - The Project Proposal

1. Project Title: Working title for the thesis
2. Overview and Significance of Project: A statement of the major question or hypothesis to be investigated and significance to broader theoretical, conceptual, or practical issues in the biological sciences.
3. Research Design: A description of the project approach, design or draft methodology.
4. Preparedness: An explanation of your academic preparatory background, referring to coursework at Brown or abroad, relevant to the proposed project.

5. Preliminary findings and progress: By the time this proposal is submitted, it is expected that the project has been underway for some time. This section asks for information about preliminary results.

Section 2 - The Signatory Page

1. Student and faculty advisors discuss and agree on the project proposal. Both advisors will agree to conditions in completing the Honors requirements.

Section 1 - The Project Proposal

Please note that your first and last name will automatically be collected via Shibboleth. When entered please ensure this is correct.

Enter your Banner ID (Nine character number beginning with a "B")

Class Year

Concentration

Project Title

The working title for the thesis.

Overview and Significance of Project

A statement of the major question or hypothesis to be investigated and significance to broader theoretical, conceptual, or practical issues in the biological sciences.

Research Design

A description of the project approach, design or draft methodology.

Preparedness

An explanation of your academic preparatory background, referring to coursework at Brown or abroad, relevant to the proposed project.


Preliminary Findings and Progress

By the time this proposal is submitted, it is expected that the project has been underway for some time. This section asks for information about preliminary results.

STUDENT HONORS CANDIDATE CONFIRMATION AND AGREEMENT

By submitting this application, I agree to and understand all the stipulations and requirements for being awarded Honors in the concentration. I confirm that my concentration plan has been or will be updated in ASK with the correct # of courses and tagged appropriately. That by completing this application, I (the student/applicant) understand that in order to be considered for a degree with Honors, I must submit a completed thesis by the stated deadline and present my research in an oral or poster presentation. I understand that honors projects encompass original research, and that it is my responsibility to consult regularly with my Thesis Advisor. I also understand that awarding of honors is contingent upon my performance in coursework, as measured by grades, as well as the quality of my thesis.

Student Signature



clear

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Honors Thesis Advisor Brown University Email Address

A copy of your responses will be sent to your Thesis Advisor for their approval and signature.

Honors Thesis Second Reader Brown University Email Address

A copy of your responses will be sent to your Second Reader for their approval and signature.

Honors Thesis Advisor Questions

The Honors faculty thesis advisors and second readers are required to submit an evaluation form for named candidate. The evaluation form, an electronic document, will be sent to both advisors by the Office of Biology Undergraduate Education. The faculty advisors evaluation form submission deadline for a December 2025.5 completer is December 5, 2025; and a May 2026 completer is April 24, 2026. (Extensions granted only by permission of Dean Toni-Marie Achilli, Office of Biology Undergraduate Education.) **Please click red arrow button or submit button at bottom of page for second signatory box to pop up.** Thank you!

First and last name

Brown University email address

Department

I accept this student as a candidate for Honors under my supervision and confirm that the student has the appropriate background and preparation for undertaking the proposed project.

 **SIGN HERE**

[clear](#)

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Thesis Second Reader Questions

First and last name

Brown University email address

Department

I agree to serve as Second Reader for this student's thesis which I will review prior to the evaluation deadline.

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SIGN HERE

clear