College of Sciences Research Honors Program Policies and Procedures

The College of Sciences provides the opportunity for outstanding students to do formalized research under faculty supervision. Students who successfully complete the process graduate with the “College Research Honors” distinction on their final academic transcript. Approval for College Honors is based on the students’ academic performance, and ultimately, upon the recommendation of faculty members, the Department Chair, and the Associate Dean.

To be eligible to pursue College Research Honors, students must first:

• Be completing a major in the College of Sciences
• Have and maintain Cumulative and Major grade point averages of 3.0 or greater

If those criteria are met, the student will then:

• Enroll in one Honors Research course in their major (CHE 4993, PHY 4993, etc.) each semester of their final academic year
• At the conclusion of those two semesters, have completed a high-quality thesis based on the conducted research

Once the student satisfies those requirements:

• Use the “College Research Honors Approval Memo,” attach a copy of the thesis paper, and obtain approval signatures from the Instructor of Record, one additional departmental faculty member, and the Department Chair
  ○ All signatories, when signing, are indicating that the research and thesis completed by the student are high quality and worthy of special distinction
• The signed Approval Memo and the thesis copy should be forwarded to the COS Dean’s Office, by the end of business on the day that grades are due in the graduating semester

The Dean’s Office will then confirm that all requirements have been met for College Honors, award the student regalia cords, and communicate to the Office of the Registrar that “College Research Honors” should appear on the student’s transcript.

Students receiving Highest Honors in the Honors College are also eligible for College of Sciences College Research Honors without doing additional research. Students need only have the “College Honors Approval Memo” submitted on their behalf with a copy of the research thesis.

Note: A ‘Waiver – COS Research Honors’ may be submitted to request an exception to the GPA or Honors Research Courses requirements (Independent Study or Laboratory Research: Biology Concentration courses may be able to substitute for the Honors Research Courses.)

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