

BIOENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES HONORS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

The Undergraduate Honors Program at Texas A&M University offers an opportunity for highly motivated, curious, and scholarly students to participate in challenging classroom and laboratory experiences in university-wide programs. Bioenvironmental Sciences (BESC) Honors allows undergraduates majoring in BESC to participate in an optional curriculum and access to University Honors and an undergraduate thesis. Students who completed the requirements for BESC Honors will satisfy the majority of the requirements for University Honors.

DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS TO GRADUATE WITH BESC HONORS

To achieve BESC Honors, a student must complete the following 18 hours of Honors coursework:

1. Six (6) hours of honors in courses offered outside of the BESC and PLPA program, which may include Core Curriculum courses:
2. Nine (9) hours of honors-level BESC coursework.
 - a. At least six (6) hours of BESC courses must be at the 300/400 level.
 - b. Upper level may include 6 hours of Independent Study/Directed Research, leading to a senior thesis, preferably through the University Undergraduate Research Fellows Program.
3. Three (3) additional hours of honors-level courses in the BESC degree plan.
4. To be certified for Honors Distinction in Bioenvironmental Sciences no grade of D* or F* in any course on the transcript and no grade on the transcript of 'D' or 'F' in an honors class can be recorded. (An asterisk [*] on the transcript of a graduating student indicates that the student was given a grade penalty for academic dishonesty and the student did not complete the remediation program that is required in order to have the asterisk removed from such a student's transcript.)

Note: If approved by the University Honors Program Office a maximum of six (6) credits based on high AP/IB examination scores or from honors transfer credit can be used towards the requirements of the BESC Honors Plan. For details, please see the TAMU Undergraduate Honors Handbook <<http://honors/tamu.edu/honors/general/Handbk.pdf>>.

HONORS RECOGNITION AND GRADUATION WITH HONORS

All completed Honors coursework taken at Texas A&M University is designated as such on a student's official transcript, showing that the student has taken part in this enhanced curriculum. After graduation, the transcript will designate that the student has achieved the distinction of "Bioenvironmental Sciences Honors", as well as any University-wide Honors distinctions.

ADMISSION TO THE HONORS PROGRAM IN BIOENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Admission to the BESC Honors Program is the same as for the University Undergraduate Honors Program. Current and potential BESC majors who have an overall GPA of ≥ 3.5 are encouraged to consult with the Faculty Advisor in charge of coordinating BESC Honors as early as possible

in their academic career to plan their course sequence. To graduate with BESC Honors, a student must graduate with a cumulative 3.5 GPA and a 3.25 GPA in Honors courses.

BIOENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (BESC) HONORS COURSE OPTIONS

BESC 204-200
Molds and Mushrooms (3 hr)

BESC 314-200
Pathogens, the Environment and Society (3 hr)

BESC 402-200
Microbial Processes in Bioremediation (3 hr)

BESC 481-980
Seminar (1 hr)

BESC 484-970
Field Experience/Internship (3 hr)

BESC 489-200
Special Topics (1 to 3 hr)

BESC 491-200
Research (1 to 3 hr)

Note: Honors-level courses are indicated by the section number "200". Honors-level writing-intensive courses are indicated by the section number "970". Honors-level communication-intensive courses are indicated by section number "980". Some Honors courses might be taught as part of regular BESC sections; if so, there will be additional time scheduled for Honors group-discussion with the instructor.

For further information about BESC HONORS, please contact:

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