

Honors option in the Human Biology Program

This option is available to serve outstanding students seeking a BA or BS in Human Biology who are highly motivated to conduct independent research. It is best suited to students who wish to expand and deepen their inquiry into an aspect of human biology beyond the core classes. The honors option is a *challenging* endeavor and should only be embarked upon with a strong commitment to, and ability to carry out, independent work. Interested students should start thinking about this option during their sophomore year or first semester of their junior year.

Eligibility: Students seeking a BA or BS in Human Biology

Minimum GPA: 3.5

An A or higher in HUBI B200 and B300 (or S200/S300)

Junior standing

2 semesters of enrollment HUBI X498 (6 credits total)

Overall expectations (more details under **Process**):

1. A year-long independent project involving research, or, a creative activity or service learning project that is contextualized within the scholarly literature during the senior year. The project must be interdisciplinary in nature and include the following HUBI learning goals: scientific reasoning, knowledge of human biological processes, interdisciplinarity/synthesis, and communication. They may also address any/all of the other HUBI learning goals.
2. The final project will be a thesis (~50 pages), or, a creative activity or service learning project that is accompanied by a shorter paper (~25-30 pages) that embeds the project within the relevant scholarly literature. The final project should make a substantive contribution to scholarship. In other words, it should address an important question or concern related to human biology. Faculty supervisors will help students hone their topic/question.
3. Public presentation of results (publication, scholarly presentation [poster or oral presentation], community presentation).

Process

1. Students meeting the eligibility criteria apply in the second semester of their junior year for start in first semester of senior year.
2. Application includes documenting eligibility criteria and an initial discussion of ideas with the HUBI director or assistant director. With their help, students will then contact two faculty members to serve as honors supervisors (or 1 faculty member and one community partner if they wish to pursue a service-learning based project) and discuss their ideas further. The expectations outlined above for a HUBI honors project will be shared with these potential supervisors.
3. At least one of the supervisors must be a HUBI core faculty member. If one cannot be found that is appropriate for the students' project, either the director or assistant director will serve as a 3rd supervisor of the project. One supervisor must be from the natural sciences and one from either the social sciences or humanities (or may be the community partner).

4. The student then drafts a proposal for their project. The proposal must contain a statement of the problem or question their project will address, how they intend to go about doing so, including relevant methods, a timeline for completion, and description of the final product. It should also be explicit about how it will meet at least the four HUBI learning goals, especially the goal of interdisciplinarity/synthesis. Students work with their supervisors to design the project so that it reflects the different modes of inquiry and analysis of the two scholarly areas.
5. The proposal is reviewed by the supervisors, revised as necessary, and then must be approved by the supervisors by the 7th week of the first semester of the senior year.
6. Once the student has secured supervisors, they can be given permission to enroll in HUBI X498.
7. During both semesters of the project, the student will meet with a HUBI faculty member overseeing honors projects and other students pursuing an honors project to get feedback, guidance, and to ensure that students are adhering to the established timeline.
8. A reasonable expectation for the first semester may be an annotated bibliography and progress report on ongoing work/research/analysis. Successful completion of this will result in a grade of R (ongoing research) in HUBI X498 for that semester.
9. Supervisors evaluate the first semester's work and, pending a positive evaluation, students are allowed to enroll in X498 for the second semester. Importantly, continuation in the second semester is not guaranteed, but is contingent on successful completion of first semester's requirements.
10. During the second semester the student continues with the research/analysis/final project production. The firm due date for the final project is 2 weeks before the end of classes.
11. Students present their project in a public forum (Hutton Honors College Undergraduate Research Symposium, Women in Science Research Symposium, among other options at IU or professional society conferences) and/or submit their project for peer review in a publication such as an undergraduate research journal.
12. A presentation of the final project to a small group of HUBI faculty, and other invited faculty, community partners (if relevant), and students is scheduled for the last week of the semester.
13. The final grade for HUBI X-498 will be based on the paper and presentations. Students must receive an A to be awarded honors.