



Honors Degrees in Chemistry

The honors curriculum is designed to challenge highly motivated students through advanced study courses; to recognize outstanding scholastic achievement; to develop interest in research and scholarly activity; and to provide students with an opportunity to work with renowned faculty.

There are two options for the honors degree:

1. **Departmental Honors.** Departmental Honors is available for all four of the bachelor degrees offered through the Department of Chemistry. This includes the BA in Chemistry, BS in Chemistry, BS in Chemistry (with a concentration in biochemistry), and the BS in Biochemistry and Chemical Biology. Students wishing to earn Departmental Honors should have a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.3, both in chemistry courses and overall. Chemistry students wishing to earn Departmental Honors will also need to complete the following requirements:
 - At least 12 credit hours in courses designated as honors courses.
 - At least one 4200-level seminar offered through the honors program.
 - At least two semesters of research in the Chemistry Department. (4 credits of CHM 5998)
 - A submitted Bachelor's Thesis covering the research project.
 - A final thesis oral examination with a designated thesis committee.
2. **Departmental and University Honors.** University Honors includes all of the foregoing requirements plus a total of 36 credit hours in courses designated as honors courses.

Earning Honors Credits

Honors credits may be earned in any course designated as an honors course. In chemistry, the only courses that automatically earn honors credits are CHM 2999 and CHM 5998. There are honors sections of CHM 1220 and CHM 1240 available during select terms. Honors credits from any department within the university may be applied to an honors degree in chemistry.

The Honors seminars (4200 level) also count for honors credits. These are 3 credit hour courses and a student must have reached junior or senior status in order to enroll. There are usually several honors seminars offered each semester. Some honors seminar courses also satisfy a specific General Education Requirement (Historical Studies, Philosophy & Letters, Social Sciences, etc.). Therefore, it is well to plan ahead so that the honors seminar course selected will serve double duty in one's program.

It is possible to earn honors credit in non-honors designated courses if the faculty member in charge of the course is willing to allow the student to do so. The faculty member must sign a special form at the time of enrollment with a specification of the type of extra work that will be required of the student who is registering for honors credit.

Further questions about the chemistry honors program can be answered by scheduling an appointment with a chemistry advisor or calling 313-577-9930.