

LSC Use Only No:	LSC Action-Date:	UWUCC USE Only No.	UWUCC Action-Date:	Senate Action Date:
		03-31a	Apr 2/10/04	Apr 3/2/04

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Contact Person W. Barkley Butler	Email Address Bbutler@iup.edu
Proposing Department/Unit Biology	Phone 724-357-2147

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)

New Course Course Prefix Change Course Deletion
 Course Revision Course Number and/or Title Change Catalog Description Change

Current Course prefix, number and full title

Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing

2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate

This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course. Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African)
 This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.

3. Program Proposals

New Degree Program Program Title Change Other
 New Minor Program New Track **Biology Honors Program**

Biology Honors Program

Current program name

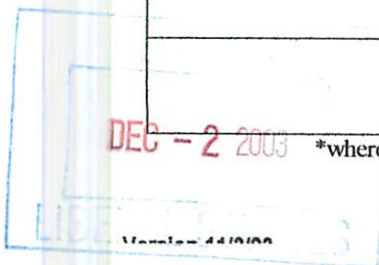
Proposed program name, if changing

4. Approvals

		Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	<i>Arthur Apfel</i>	11-09-03
Department Chair(s)	<i>Arthur Apfel</i>	11/6/03
College Curriculum Committee Chair	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/01/03
College Dean	<i>John DeLoe</i>	12/01/03
Director of Liberal Studies *		
Director of Honors College *		
Provost *		
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)		
UWUCC Co-Chairs	<i>Gail Schriest</i>	2-10-04

DEC - 2 2003

*where applicable



Part II. Description of Curriculum Change

1. Catalog Description

Biology Honors Program

Open by departmental permission to all majors within the Department of Biology. All students who by end of the first semester of their sophomore year have at least a 3.25 overall GPA will be invited to apply for the program. The application will include a transcript and a personal statement outlining the student's academic plan, career goals and why she or he wants to be considered for the honors program. A department honors committee (makeup to be determined by the Department) will select a maximum of twelve students per year for the program.

Students accepted into the program will take BIOL 484 Honors Seminar during the first semester of their junior year, two semesters of BIOL 483 Honors Thesis/Independent Study and one 500/600 level biology course. The honors thesis will be based on research performed under the supervision of a department professor who specializes in the student's area of interest and must be approved by a thesis committee made up of the faculty member directing the student and two others, one of whom may come from outside the Department of Biology.

Students interested in the Biology Honors Program should discuss this opportunity with their advisors as early as possible so that they have achieved the necessary GPA and are prepared to make application for the program in the spring of their sophomore year. This program, though designed for all qualified students within the Department of Biology should be of particular value to students intending to seek admission to graduate or professional schools. Honors coursework is designated on university transcripts. Students completing the departmental honors program are recognized at departmental commencement ceremonies.

Biology Honors Program	9 sh
BIOL 484 Honors Seminar	2 sh (1)
BIOL 483 Honors Thesis /Independent Study	4 sh (1) (2)
BIOL 5xx/6xx Graduate Level Course	3 sh (3)

(1) May be counted toward the following majors: B.A and B.S. in Biology and B.S. in Biology Education

(2) Two semesters, 2 sh each

(3) Students must take one course at the 500/600 level during their junior or senior year. This will be in addition to the biology credits (currently 38 for all tracks) required for the major.

2. Detailed Description

This honors program has been designed to enrich the undergraduate education of qualified biology majors and will fit with all of our majors and other tracks. Many of our best students now participate in research with faculty members and this will provide a formal mechanism for that work to be recognized and integrated into their program of study. The Biology Honors Program

should be particularly attractive to and valuable for students considering careers in research and/or seeking admission to graduate or professional schools. Also, as a department with a significant number of majors from the Robert E. Cook Honors College we have been encouraged to develop an honors program to better serve those students as well.

The program will be open by application to students in all majors and tracks within the Department of Biology who, by the end of the first semester of their sophomore year have at least a 3.25 overall GPA. It requires 9 credits of work, a 2-credit introductory seminar course, two 2-credit semesters of Honors Thesis/Independent Study and one 500 or 600 level biology course. Six of these credits may be counted toward the major, but three (the 500 or 600 level course) must be in addition to the biology credits (currently 38 for all tracks) required for their major.

The sequence follows.

1. End of first semester of sophomore year – Students with overall GPA of 3.25 or more are invited to apply to the program.
2. Department honors committee will select from up to 12 students per year for the program based on the number and quality of applicants and on the availability of resources.
3. Fall of junior year students take BIOL 484 – Honors Seminar that introduces them to research in general and the research interests of faculty in the department in particular. During this semester students select a thesis advisor and thesis topic and will write a thesis proposal. A grade of A, B or C in this course is required in order to continue in the program.
4. During the next two semesters students do research on their thesis, taking 2-credits of BIOL 483 Honors Thesis/Independent Study, each semester.
5. During either their junior or senior students take one biology course at the 500 or 600 level.

Part III. Implementation

1. How program will affect existing students

The Biology Honors Program is designed to complement, not replace, existing programs and tracks within the department. All courses required for the program can count toward the student's major. This program can be combined with or added to any of our majors or tracks.

2. Faculty resources

Faculty resources are adequate for this program. We have been promised support for the Honors Thesis/Independent Study. The 500/600 level course requirement can be met with existing courses and we have the complement in a large department to teach the 2-credit Honors Seminar once per year.

3. Other resources

Other resources may be adequate. Many faculty members already involve students in their research and this will change the nature of the students' involvement (writing a thesis on their research) but not the space, equipment and supply needs.

4. Effect on student enrollment

This program will help us attract more highly qualified students. It will also help us to work more effectively with the Robert E. Cook Honors College to attract more biology students there.

5. Intended implementation date

We plan to have this program approved in time to select the first group of students for it during the spring of 2004 and teach the first honors seminar in the fall of 2004.

Part IV. Periodic Assessment

1. Evaluation plan

The success of this program will be measured by:

- a) The number of students eligible to apply for it. We would expect this number to increase since the availability of this program should both attract more good students and encourage more students to work hard enough during their first three semesters here to be eligible for it.
- b) The percent of students accepted into the program that completes it successfully. We would expect this to be high, though not 100%
- c) The percent of students accepted into the program that are successful in gaining admission to graduate or professional schools if they apply or that succeed in obtaining positions in their field following graduation if they choose not to attend graduate or professional school.
- d) We will conduct exit interviews of students in this program and include questions about it in the exit questionnaire we are planning to administer to all of our graduating seniors.

2. Frequency of evaluation

Evaluation will be an ongoing part of this program in that we will collect the relevant information annually.

3. Evaluating entity

The same honors committee that administers this program will evaluate it.

Part V. Course Proposals

A course proposal for one new course, BIOL 484 Honors Seminar is attached.

We also want to activate BIOL 483 Honors Thesis/Independent Study for our department. The Catalog Description would read as follows.

BIOL 483 Honors Thesis/Independent Study**var-2-4sh**

Prerequisites: Admission to the Biology Honors Program and the successful completion of BIOL 484.

Two-semester sequence of research and writing, culminating in an honors thesis. Honors theses are completed individually under the direction of a department professor and are approved by a thesis committee consisting of the thesis director and two others, one of whom may come from outside the Department of Biology. May be taken twice for a total of 4sh.

Part VI. Letters of Support or Acknowledgement

Letters of support are attached from the following.

Dr. John S. Eck, Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Janet E. Goebel, Director, Robert E. Cook Honors College

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Robert E. Cook Honors College
Whitmyre Hall, Room 136
290 Pratt Drive
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15705-1087

724-357-4971
Fax: 724-357-3906
E-mail: honors-college@grove.iup.edu
Internet: <http://www.iup.edu/honors>

January 21, 2003

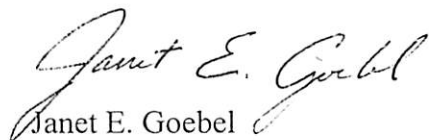
Dear Colleagues,

I write in support of the proposed Biology Department's Honors Program.

This program would provide academically strong biology majors with the opportunity to pursue more demanding individual research projects, thus enhancing their education and enabling them to present stronger credentials when applying for graduate programs or professional positions.

The program also would support the goals of the Robert E. Cook Honors College, and it is in line with the provost's current encouragement of departmental honors programs.

Sincerely,


Janet E. Goebel



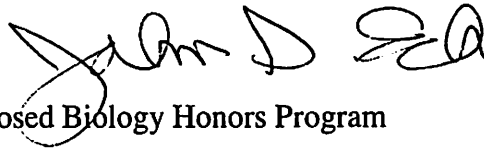
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

305 Weyandt Hall

Date: November 25, 2003

To: Barkley Butler

From: John S. Eck

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Eck", is written over the "From:" field and extends slightly into the "Re:" field.

Re: Support of Proposed Biology Honors Program

The purpose of this memorandum is to indicate the support of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics for the proposed Honors Program in Biology.

This program will provide enriched experiences for our Biology majors who are planning to go on to post-graduate studies in Biology and to others who desire a more intense experience in Biology as part of their undergraduate education.