Undergraduate Honors Programs

**Biosciences 400 Series — Honors Research**

Undergraduates are encouraged to pursue independent supervised research in Bios 401/402, 403/404 and 411/412. These courses offer the opportunity to perform an individual research project in a research laboratory in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology or Biochemistry & Cell Biology and thus gain first-hand experience of what a career in research would entail. Students interested in graduate school are strongly encouraged to enroll in this program.

Starting in Fall 2004, students pursuing honors research supervised by an EEB faculty member may sign up for Bios 403/404 instead of Bios 401/402 section 002 and by Fall 2005, Bios 401/402 will apply only to students supervised by BCB faculty members and Bios 403/404 will apply only to students supervised by EEB faculty members.

The prerequisites are an overall B average or better and B's or better in upper division Biosciences courses. Specific prerequisite courses are listed below. An application must be obtained and returned to the appropriate department secretary early in the second semester of your junior year or the semester prior to initiation of the research. A student can enroll in the program when prerequisites are met. A student can enroll for more than two semesters of 400 research.

**Prerequisites for Bios 401/402:**
- Bios 201, 202
- Four biosciences laboratory modules
- Grades of B or better in these courses and at least an overall B average at Rice
- Bios 301 with a grade of B or better
- Completion of, or present enrollment in, Bios 302

**Prerequisites for Bios 403/404:**
- Bios 201, 202
- Four biosciences laboratory modules
- Grades of B or better in these courses and at least an overall B average at Rice
- Bios 213
- Appropriate additional courses as determined by faculty mentor

Application forms should be submitted to the appropriate department. EEB students should consult their potential mentor prior to submitting application forms. BCB students can obtain information about potential mentors and additional details about the program from the junior advisors (Dr. MacKenzie; X2228 or Dr. Beckingham; X4016) or from Dolores in the Department Office.

A formal thesis and participation in the Annual Poster Session in the spring will be required and registration in 2 consecutive semesters of 401/402 or 403/404 is mandatory. Bios 401/402 students discuss their research in the Bios 412 seminars and thus 402 and 412 must be taken concurrently.

It is also possible to gain credit for research during the summer between junior and senior years by enrolling and paying the appropriate tuition. This summer research, either for credit or not, gives an ideal entry into the senior research program. A stipend may be provided for summer research. See department secretaries for application forms.