RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences

Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience
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Cell Biology and Neuroscience Honors Program (146:408-409; 3 credits) Guidelines

Purpose: The Honors Program is intended for students who wish to pursue a more rigorous course of undergraduate study. It is designed to offer advanced training in laboratory research through the performance of an original research project under the direct guidance of a faculty member. First and foremost, we want students to experience the entire process of doing research. This means that each student must be involved in the total scope of the project, from designing and carrying out project objectives to collecting and analyzing experimental data.

Course Registration: To register for these courses, a student must:

1) Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 in all courses credited toward the major,
2) Find a faculty research sponsor in whose lab the research will be completed,
3) Email the completed research application form and an acceptable research proposal (2 pages) approved by the student's research advisor to the CBN Research Coordinator, Dr. Shu C. Hsu. Upon approval, a special permission number will be emailed to you for registration.

Note: The application for research must be sent in BEFORE the add/drop deadline of each semester in order to register by the "add course" deadline.

Course Grading: To receive full credits for these courses, the student must:

1) Carry out 4-5 hours of research per week per credit registered
2) Submit a written honors thesis and defend the thesis in an oral presentation in front of an honors thesis committee composed of three faculty members chosen by the student with assistance from his/her advisor

Note: The grades for these courses will be submitted by the research advisor and will be based on the research work carried out by the student in the lab and on the quality of the student's progress report.

Honors Thesis: A detailed honors thesis format will be available on the course website on Sakai. The thesis should be no less than 25-30 pages and should have the following sections:

1) A descriptive title
2) Informative abstract that summarizes the research project results in comparison with current literature
3) Materials and methods (not included in the page count)
4) Results (document your experimental observations, results and/or your troubleshooting process)
5) Discussion (describe your results in comparison with current literature and propose future directions)
6) References

Note: A copy of the thesis must be uploaded to the course Sakai site no later than the last class day of each semester. The oral thesis defense must be completed by the first week of April (exact date will be announced every year).

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Application Form

Section 1. To be completed by the student

Date: _____

Student Name: _____ ID#: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

GPA: _____ CBN GPA: _____ Graduating Class: _____ College: _____

Registering for _____ credits of research Semester _____ Year _____

Faculty Member Name: _____

Section 2. To be completed by the faculty mentor

I agree to serve as mentor for this project and approve the project proposal:

Faculty Mentor Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Project Approved ○