Honors Orientation will introduce students to the requirements and procedures of the Honors Program in Biology. Students will also be introduced to departmental faculty members and their areas of interest, so that they can make informed decisions in selecting a mentor or an area of research.

Biology majors enrolled in the Honors Program (HP) of the College of Arts and Sciences begin their honors courses in the first semester of the sophomore year. Students admitted to the HP at the end of their freshman year (in summer), should contact the Honors Advisor in the Department of Biology, no later than the end of the first week of the fall semester. All honors students must enroll in Directed Reading for Sophomores—Honors Orientation (050-217) in the first (fall) semester of the sophomore year. This course is only offered in the fall. Four (4) Directed Reading courses (1-cr each) and Honors Research are required, as follows:

- Directed Reading for Sophomores—Honors Orientation (050-217 01, fall)
- Directed Reading for Sophomores (050-218, spring)
- Directed Reading for Juniors (050-317, fall and 050-318, spring)
- Honors Research (050-3-cr; honors students should not register for Independent Investigation)

Honors Thesis (no credit)

Directed Reading classes (218, 317, 318) are courses of individualized instruction, available only to biology majors in the COAS Honors Program, in which a student is introduced to a specific area of research in biology under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The student meets with the mentor for one hour each week to discuss assigned readings in the current periodical literature. Papers are analyzed critically for findings and methodology, with the aim of accumulating information on current knowledge and outstanding issues in the specific area of research. This experience develops the skills and background information necessary for writing a thesis proposal to be submitted no later than the middle of the semester in which Honors Research is taken. The student's obligations for each semester of Directed Reading and Honors Research are spelled out in the Mentor Agreement for that semester. The honors thesis must be submitted by the end of the second week of the final semester in residence. The thesis proposal and the honors thesis must be done under the supervision of the faculty mentor. While the honors thesis is expected to be a substantial exploration of the research topic, its length and content are at the discretion of the honors mentor, who must approve the honors thesis before it is submitted.
to the COAS Honors Program. For 218, 317, and 318, students are required to submit to the Directed Reading Coordinator (the instructor of record for that course, for that semester and year) at mid-semester, a list of references (appropriately formatted) for articles completed by mid-semester. A complete list of all articles read for the semester must be submitted by the student to the appropriate instructor of record by the last day of formal classes.

Instructional Units/Activities

1. Introduction to Directed Reading in preparation for Honors Research and Honors Thesis.

2. Introduction/review of foundational concepts in biology and molecular biology (lectures/discussions, assignments).

3. Presentations by faculty mentors (tba).

4. Exercises in formatting references, preparing PowerPoint presentations, abstracts, and graphical abstracts.

5. 6 summaries of selected presentations.

6. Mid-term examination (selected topics), references.

7. Literature searches: Data bases for biology research.

8. Student presentations (optional).