

Guidelines for Research Studies

To students interested in honors research (30100, 30200, 30300) or independent study (31001-4) in Chemistry or Biochemistry

Students can register for undergraduate research projects in the Honors Program or the Independent Study Program. To register for either Honors Research or Independent Study, students must have the written approval of the faculty sponsor and the chairperson of the department (or the chairperson's designee). Approval should be obtained in the semester prior to which the work will be performed. **Research reports are required of all undergraduate research students for every term for which a grade is given.** The students get training in how to design and perform experiments, how to keep a notebook, how to write a report and research paper and how to make oral and poster presentations. Each student in these programs must have a conference with the designated departmental advisor every term he or she is working in research. An information form, including the student's major, the name of the mentor, the title of the research project and the projected graduation date must be on file with the advisor (Prof. Simms).

Those completing three semesters of honors research are required to give an oral presentation of their work during the Spring semester. **All students in Honors and Independent Studies are required to attend the research presentation.** You will be notified about the exact date and time, and there will be a penalty for not attending.

Honors Research

In order to graduate "with Honors" the student must maintain a "B" average or better in the Major subject, submit an Honors report in research publication format, and receive 9 credits of "A" for this work. A maximum of nine credits may be credited toward the degree.

Independent Studies

Independent Study involves reading, writing, and research or special projects that culminate in a formal term paper or term project. In order to register for Independent Studies, the student must have a GPA of 2.5 or better in chemistry. No more than four (4) credits of Independent Study may be awarded per semester. A maximum of nine credits may be credited toward the degree.

Reports and Grades

In order to receive a grade for an honors or independent research course, you are required to write a paper on your work that should be reviewed by your mentor. **The paper should have sections that correspond to a cover sheet, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and references.** The cover sheet should include the student's name, mentor's name, course number and semester, title, date submitted, and any other pertinent information. The introductory section should be well documented and be as extensive as possible. A final copy of your revised paper, including a letter grade from your mentor, should then be submitted to me.

For those completing Chem. 30100 or the first independent research course, limited results are expected, so an extensive review of the literature (and as much of the other components as possible) is expected in the report (**15 pages minimum**, double spaced, 12 points font - Times New Roman or equivalent, with diagrams). Subsequent reports will build on this initial report.

A grade of INC will be assigned if the report is not submitted before or during the final examination period. INC will be converted by the Registrar to F grade (an irreversible action) by the sixth week in the next semester, so the report should be submitted before that deadline.

In order to register for the next honors or independent research course, it will be necessary for you to write a paper including an abstract (at least a first draft), and submit it to me (your mentor need not review this preliminary paper). For registration, please make an appointment with the advisor (Prof. Simms) in room MR1024 Science Building on the listed days (Spring semester registration between **January 22-26**, Summer semester registration between **May 22-25**, and for the Fall semester registration between **August 20-25**).

Sincerely,
Prof. Simms