Honors in Marine Science

The BU Marine Program is dedicated to teaching our students how to be scientists. For this reason, original research is central to attaining the Marine Science degree. While all Marine Science majors obtain research experience research during the Marine Semester, students wishing to attain Honors in the major are challenged to delve deeper in their exploration of marine science under the mentorship of a BUMP faculty member. The Honors candidate must more fully engage in scientific inquiry and the process of doing science as an independent researcher by enrolling in two consecutive semesters of directed research during the senior year (MR401/402). In the course of this experience, Honors students learn first-hand the dedication, commitment and perseverance required to see a project to fruition. This experience provides excellent preparation for graduate training and/or professional careers. The Marine Science Program Manager will announce deadlines for Honors in Marine Science applications and completion of the thesis.

To graduate with Honors in Marine Science, a student must

- **Complete 8 credits of original research (MR401 / MR402) during the senior year under the direction of a BUMP faculty member.** Students work with a faculty mentor to define and outline a research project, which is then submitted to the Director of the Marine Science Program for approval prior to registering for MR 401/402. The student is expected to spend a minimum of 12 hours per week engaged in laboratory or field research, including time spent analyzing data and preparing an Honors Thesis. Students who take the Marine Semester in their senior year may complete MR 401 during the Marine Semester by registering for 1 semester of directed research with the same faculty member who will serve as the research mentor for MR402 during the following Spring semester.
- **Author an Honors Thesis.** The thesis must be signed by the student’s thesis committee and turned into the Director of the Marine Science Program.
- **Defend the Thesis before a committee consisting of their mentor and two other BUMP faculty.**
- **Present a talk on their Marine Science Honors Research at the annual BUMP Honors symposium.**

To graduate with Honors in Marine Science, a student must also

- **Achieve a minimum grade of B+ in MR401/402.** Grades are based on the student’s laboratory or field research, the written thesis, and the defense.
- **Achieve a cumulative 3.5 GPA in Marine Science courses.** [ES144 + Marine Breadth courses + Marine Semester courses].
- **Achieve an overall cumulative 3.25 GPA.**
Boston University Marine Program
Honors in Marine Science Application

Part 1: To be completed by student

Date of Application: ________________________________

Department of Undergraduate Research: ________________________________

Supervising Faculty Member: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________ E-mail: ________________________________

Student Name: ___________________________ ID: ___________________________

Address: ________________________________ Phone: ________________________________

____________________________________________ Email: ___________________________

Year of Graduation: ___________________________

Please list all previous Undergraduate Research or Directed Studies taken:
(Note: 12 credit limit)

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Please answer the following questions on an attached sheet:

1. State clearly the objective, plan of study, and rationale for this Undergraduate Research. Include a complete bibliography of readings to be completed. If course work takes you off-campus, state the location of the proposed course work. Attach extra pages if needed.

2. State concisely how this Undergraduate Research fits with your overall academic program, in relation to both previous work and future goals.

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Boston University Marine Program
Honors in Marine Science Application
(Part 2 & 3)

Part 2: To be completed by the supervising faculty member

In order for this agreement to be clearly stated for all concerned, please indicate what percentage each of the following factors will contribute to the student’s final grade. This section must be completed thoroughly, as it forms the basis of the contract between the faculty advisor and the student.

Attendance
Indicate the approximate number of meetings to be scheduled during the semester: ____________

Indicate what percentage of the final grade will be reflected by attendance: ____________

Written Work
Indicate the number of papers required and the approximate length of each paper: ____________

Indicate what percentage of the final grade will be reflected by written work: ____________

Other preparation required for final grade: (please specify and include percentage)

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Part 3: Signatures

1. Student: ________________________________ Date: ____________

2. Supervising Faculty Member: ________________________________
   (please print)  ________________________________ Date: ____________
   (signature)

3. BUMP Director: ________________________________ Date: ____________
   (signature)

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