DEPARTMENTAL HONORS in BOTANY

Departmental Honors offers distinction to the best students in the major. This program recognizes accomplishments in the following three areas: scholarship, leadership, and professionalism.

Departmental Honors Requirements:

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.7;
- Earn an “A” grade in the capstone “Portfolio Summative Assessment” 4980 course;
- Write and present a thesis to a committee of faculty members. The presentation should not only earn an "A" grade in the "Botany Thesis" 4970 course, but be deemed outstanding. Please see the rubric on the back of this contract;
- Participate in the Honors Nye Banquet poster presentation when you graduate.

Students who have not completed their General Education requirements are encouraged to take Honors General Education classes.

Applying for Departmental Honors:

- Download and complete the Departmental Honors Application, available on the WSU Honors webpage, weber.edu/honors/forms.html.
- Meet with the Botany Departmental Honors Advisor, who will review and sign your application.
- Submit the completed application to the Honors Program Advisor, who is located in LI 324. You will receive notification confirming your acceptance into the program.
- Note: you must be admitted into Departmental Honors at least one semester before graduating.

Applying for Graduation with Departmental Honors:

- Early in the semester of anticipated graduation, download and complete the Departmental Honors Exit Application, found on the WSU Honors webpage, weber.edu/honors/forms.html.
- Meet with the Botany Departmental Honors Advisor, who will review and sign off on your application.
- Submit the signed form to the Honors Program Advisor, who will clear you for graduation with Departmental Honors. You must still apply for graduation through the Graduation Office.
- Note: the Exit Application must be submitted prior to fall break for fall graduation and prior to spring break for spring graduation.

Recognition Through Departmental Honors:

- Your transcript and degree diploma will be printed with the distinction, “Departmental Honors in Botany;”
- You will receive an invitation to all Honors Program social and educational events;
- You will receive an invitation to the Honors Nye Banquet when you graduate.

Revised 12/2017
Rubric

An outstanding thesis and presentation is defined as meeting the following characteristics, which qualitatively and quantitatively go far beyond that reached by an “A” student:

a) The research shows originality of thought and interpretation. This could be in the construction of the hypothesis, application of a technique, development of the project, etc.

b) The thesis demonstrates an understanding of the pertinent literature by showing relationships between this work and other published research, contains meaningful suggestions for subsequent research by expanding the ideas of this research to provide new questions for further study, unifies the work with a broader biological context through suggesting inter-relationships with ideas outside of this area of study, etc.

c) The student has displayed initiative throughout the planning and execution of the project with regard to at least one of the following: obtaining financial support, arranging facilities or study site, collaborating outside of the department/WSU, etc.

d) The research is of sufficient quality to be publishable in a peer-reviewed journal or suitable for presentation before a professional society.