

Honors bestowed by UCCS and UCCS Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Updated: Spring 2023

In schematic format, honors bestowed by UCCS, the UCCS College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, and the UCCS Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry is summarized as:

University		Departmental		
UCCS Graduation Honors		Chemistry & Biochemistry Departmental Graduation Honors		
Overall GPA	Honorific*	Honors in Academics & Research*	Distinction in Academics*	Distinction in Research*
3.90 – 4.00	Summa Cum Laude	GPA in major > 3.70	GPA in major > 3.70	GPA in major > 3.00
3.70 – 3.89	Magna Cum Laude	Research with Faculty member for an agreed upon time length	N/A	Research with Faculty member for an agreed upon time length
3.50 – 3.69	Cum Laude	Create an original Research Report	N/A	Create an original Research Report
		Present original research at a scientific conference <i>or</i> in the Departmental Seminar Series	N/A	Present original research at a scientific conference <i>or</i> in the Departmental Seminar Series
College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences Graduation Honors		Top Graduate in each degree		
Top Natural Science Graduate		Chemistry: B.A., B.I., B.S.; Biochemistry: B.A., B.S. <i>Chosen through a discussion of all Chemistry/Biochemistry Faculty</i>		
UCCS Semester Honors		Chemistry & Biochemistry Departmental Semester Honors		
Overall GPA	Honorific	Top Student Per Course		
4.0	President's List	<i>Chosen by each Chemistry/Biochemistry Faculty member in their courses</i>		
3.70 – 3.99	Dean's List			

* designated honors are printed on diplomas and listed within transcripts

This document focuses on the upper-righthand quadrant (consisting of Departmental **Honors in Academics and Research**, **Distinction in Academics**, or the **Distinction in Research** bestowed upon graduation), which are earned by:

Honors in Academics and Research

Academic Requirement of Awarded Students:

- Have a minimum 3.70 GPA in their Chemistry/Biochemistry major when they graduate.

Research Requirement of Awarded Students:

- Complete research on a novel project in the laboratory of a departmental faculty member for an appropriate amount of time that has been agreed upon with that faculty member.
- Create a complete Undergraduate Research Report based on their original research.**
- Present their research in one of two options: 1) as a poster/oral presentation at a conference or symposium; **or** 2) as an oral presentation in the Departmental Seminar Series.

Distinction in Academics

Requirement of Awarded Students:

- Have a minimum 3.70 GPA in their Chemistry/Biochemistry major when they graduate.

Distinction in Research

Research Requirement of Awarded Students:

- Complete research on a novel project in the laboratory of a departmental faculty member for an appropriate amount of time that has been agreed upon with that faculty member.
- Create a complete Undergraduate Research Report based on their original research.**
- Present their research in one of two options: 1) as a poster/oral presentation at a conference or symposium; **or** 2) as an oral presentation in the Departmental Seminar Series.

**activities must be evaluated/reviewed by one additional departmental faculty member

Eligibility

Any student who has declared to major in Chemistry or Biochemistry in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry with the goal of earning a Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), or Bachelor of Innovation (B.I.) is eligible to attempt the Honors in Academics and Research, Distinction in Academics, or Distinction in Research designations.

Research Product Details for Honors/Distinction in Research

UCCS Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Updated: Spring 2023

Undergraduate Research Report

Purpose: To demonstrate proficiency in communicating original research in the form of a written report. The finished report must be submitted to the students' research advisor and committee member (typically another member in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry), with any revisions suggested by the committee members being addressed, at least two weeks prior to the last day of the semester to allow for the submission of the complete routing form.

Report Details (*may vary dependent on research topic*):

- Length should be approximately 15-25 pages and comprised of text (Double-spaced, 12-point font) and data figures.
- The introduction section of the report should be roughly less than 30% of the report.
- Original data and procedures must make up approximately 40% of the report.
- The report should be organized according to the follow sections:
 1. Introduction (motivation/background)
 - Figures/captions may be original or reprinted and cited
 2. Materials and Methods
 3. Results and Discussion
 - Figures/captions must be original
 4. Conclusions and Future Directions
 5. References (in format of an ACS, or similar, journal)

Note: While a process of drafting and revision (guided by research mentor and/or lab peers) is encouraged, the report is to be written solely by the student seeking the research honors.

Presentation Choice #1: Oral Research Seminar in the Departmental Seminar Series

Purpose: To demonstrate proficiency in communicating original research orally within a seminar. The presentation should be given within the Departmental Seminar Series during the ultimate or penultimate semester of the students' degree program with both the research advisor and committee member (typically another faculty member in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry) in attendance.

Presentation Details:

1. Speaking for 15 -25 minutes, answering audience question(s) for up to 5 minutes after the presentation time
2. PowerPoint presentation (with slide numbers on slides), as outlined below
 - a. Title (1 slide)
 - b. Motivation and societal relevance (1 slide)
 - c. Statement of relevant research question(s)
 - d. Background ($\leq 30\%$ of presented material)
 - e. Original results (data), interpretation, and associated discussion ($\geq 40\%$ of presented material)
 - f. Future directions/impact (1 slide)

Note: While a process of drafting and revision (guided by research mentor and/or lab peers) is encouraged, the presentation is to be prepared solely by the student seeking the Honors/Distinction in research. Slides prepared by the research advisor or lab peers are not to be used directly or as a template in the Departmental Honors Seminar.

Presentation Choice #2: Oral/Poster Presentation of Research at a Research Conference

Purpose: An important aspect of conducting original research is to disseminate results of that work. This requirement demonstrates that students have experience organizing and presenting their results to an audience outside of the UCCS Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry.

Details: The student must present their work in either poster or oral format at a local, regional, or (inter)national conference hosted outside of the Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry. Options include but are not limited to Mountain Lion Research Day (MLRD), the Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum (CSURF), and ACS regional or national meetings. Note that presentation at the Annual UCCS Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry Summer Research Symposium does not count toward meeting this requirement.

Routing Form for Graduation with Distinction in Research

UCCS Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Updated: Spring 2023

Purpose: This routing form serves as a stepwise guide for students who have initiated original research with a faculty advisor in their junior year or earlier to complete the research requirements to graduate with either **Honors in Academics & Research** or **Distinction in Research** from the UCCS Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry. It is the sole responsibility of the student seeking an Honor/Distinction in Research to collect the signatures listed below upon the student's completion of that requirement. All items must be completed to receive an Honors/Distinction in Research designation.

Student Information This is an example; please use the signature-enabled PDF for the official routing form

Name: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date (month/year): _____

1. **Intent to Graduate with Honor/Distinction in Research.** The student who is majoring in Chemistry or Biochemistry contacts the Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry (Dave Anderson; danderso@uccs.edu) who will provide the student with their major GPA (GPA calculated exclusively from grades received in CHEM courses), determine eligibility for either Honors in Academics & Research or Distinction in Research, and answer any questions.

Departmental Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____ CHEM GPA on Date: _____

Student is eligible to pursue (indicate): Honors in Academics & Research Distinction in Research

2. **Research Advisor Approval.** The research advisor agrees that the student has completed at least two terms (summer terms included) of original research under their guidance prior to the student's graduation date to justify a ~20-minute presentation within the departmental seminar. By signing, the research advisor confirms that sufficient progress on original research has been made by the student to qualify for a research designation.

Research Advisor: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. **Committee Formulation.** In addition to the research advisor, commitment is required from one faculty member of similar research interests, often from the Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry, who agrees to read and suggest revisions on the Undergraduate Research Report, as well as attend/view, and provide feedback on, the research seminar. By signing, the signatory faculty member agrees to that commitment.

Committee Member: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

After securing signatures from the Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, their research advisor, and one additional faculty member to serve as a committee member, the student candidate should email this signed routing form to the Department Chair (Dave Anderson, danderso@uccs.edu) to show eligibility for the Honors/Distinction in Research and commitments from two faculty in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry.

- 4a. **Presentation of Research outside the Department or in the Departmental Seminar Series.** The student presents their research (either as poster or oral presentation) at a conference/symposium outside the department or in the departmental seminar series, as confirmed by the student's research advisor.

Research Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

- 4b. **Completion of Undergraduate Research Report.** The research advisor and committee member agree that the quality of the final, submitted research report meets the departmental standard for an Honor/Distinction in Research.

Research Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Committee Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit this completed form to Dave Anderson (danderso@uccs.edu), Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, no less than *two weeks prior to the last day of the semester* in which the designation is to be awarded.

Sample Timeline for Graduation with Distinction in Research

UCCS Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Updated: Spring 2023

This sample timeline represents one way in which the requirements for Graduation with Honors/Distinction in Research *could* be met. Deviations from this schedule are also acceptable as long as the student completes all of the required elements. Any questions should be addressed to the departmental chair and/or research advisor.

Sample graduation: May (of graduation year)

Spring (of year prior to graduation), or earlier

Order	Description	Signature Collection	Time Sensitivity
	Student actively conducts research over the course of the semester		

Fall (of semester prior to graduation)

Order	Description	Signature Collection	Time Sensitivity
	Student actively conducts research over the course of the semester		
1	Student learns current CHEM GPA	Box 1	
2	Student obtains approval of research advisor to give research seminar in departmental seminar series	Box 2	
3	Student secures commitment from faculty other than research advisor to serve on research honors committee	Box 3	

Spring (of graduation year)

Order	Description	Signature Collection	Time Sensitivity
	Student actively conducts research over the course of the semester		
1	Student contacts the organizer of departmental seminar series to schedule research seminar		At the beginning of the semester, when the seminar series request is sent out
2	Student submits digital copy of research report to research advisor and committee member		no later than 4 weeks prior to the graduation date
3	Student presents research poster at local conference: Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum (CSURF)	Box 4a	may be completed at any time during any semester; CSURF is typically in April
4	Student discusses comments and suggested revisions of research report with their research advisor and committee member and performs any revisions	Box 4b	The revised, final Research report is submitted to the committee before the final two weeks of the semester
5	Student maintains CHEM GPA in accord with requirements for Graduation with Honors/Distinction in Research		After all other signatures collected
6	Student submits the completed Honors/Distinction requirement form to the department chair to signal completion of Honors/Distinction Requirements		Two weeks prior to the end of the semester