

*The BSC 498 Contract must be completed and emailed to Cassidy Hawkins (cithubbar@ncsu.edu) or BioSci Honors Program (bioscihonors@ncsu.edu) before the experience begins and before you can be enrolled in the BSC 498 course.*

**Course Description**

BSC 498 is the second of a three-semester Honors Research sequence. It provides an opportunity for students to gain real-world experience by conducting independent research in an area of biological sciences. A minimum of 135 hours must be completed for the three hours credit. The experience must be arranged by the student and approved by the Biological Sciences Honors Director in advance of beginning the work. Students must email the completed BSC 498 Contract, signed by their BSC 498 supervisor (Research Mentor) and by their academic advisor to cithubbar@ncsu.edu or bioscihonors@ncsu.edu. The Program Director will review the contract. Students will be enrolled in the course after a contract is approved. The student is required to complete a series of reflective written assignments during and at the end of their BSC 498 experience, including a draft of their undergraduate thesis. Due dates for these assignments are provided on the course Moodle site.

**Learning Outcomes**

After completing BSC 498, students will be able to:

- Identify literature sources relevant to their proposed honors project.
- Describe preliminary work completed on their honors project.
- Describe and justify their honors project proposal.
- Explain how they applied their academic (in-class) experiences to their BSC 498 experience.
- Describe the knowledge and skills they gained or further developed through their BSC 498 experience.
- Explain how their understanding of the nature and practice of science was impacted by their BSC 498 experience.

**Grading**

This course is offered on an S/U grading basis only. Grading will be based on:

- A series of reflective written assignments to be completed during and at the end of the experience
- An evaluation completed by the research mentor at the end of the experience
- The student's plan for when to take BSC 499 should be submitted via Moodle.

**What you need to do to be enrolled (in this order)**

- Consult with your advisor or the Honors Program Director (bioscihonors@ncsu.edu) if you have questions about what sorts of research/teaching experiences would be appropriate.
- Arrange an independent research project and complete the BSC 498 Contract (Sections 1-2) in consultation with the research mentor with whom you will be working.
- After you and your research mentor sign the contract (Section 3), take it to your academic advisor for their signature.
- Email your BSC 498 Contract to bioscihonors@ncsu.edu or cithubbar@ncsu.edu. Once your contract has been approved, you will be enrolled in the BSC 498 course. In order to be enrolled in the current semester, you must submit a completed contract before the official university census date for that semester. Academic Calendars for each semester can be found on the NC State Registration and Records website.

**1** Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Research Mentor \_\_\_\_\_ Mentor's phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's email \_\_\_\_\_

Primary physical location of the experience \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: You are required to have a minimum of 135 hours for this course.*

Start date \_\_\_\_\_ # of weeks \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. hrs per week (on average) \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the semester in which you would like BSC 498 to appear on your transcript:

Fall / Spring / SS1 / SS2 (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

\_\_\_\_\_ Initial here if you will be completing this work during the summer but want credit for the course in the fall semester.

**2** **Briefly describe the proposed research project you will be working on. (Continue on back if needed)**

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**3**

**Signatures**-- all three signatures and Program Approval are required.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mentor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*\*By signing, the mentor also agrees to complete a brief evaluation at the end of the experience and agrees to read, edit, and approve the student's research proposal, and to verify the student's participation and completion of the required hours of work.*

Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Program Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Information for Conducting Research in the Summer:**

If you plan to conduct BSC 497 research in the summer, a few options include:

1. Do BSC 497 in the summer for summer credit, pay summer tuition, and complete all assignments prior to the last day of classes in summer session 2. Few students choose this option because you have to pay summer tuition.
2. Do BSC 497 in the summer, but enroll in the course for the fall semester, pay fall tuition, but still complete all assignments in the summer. You would need to decide when you want to do BSC 498. You can do it in the fall semester and complete the research and BSC 498 work (assignments and the research). So, you would be enrolled in both BSC 497 and BSC 498.

If you plan to conduct BSC 498 research in the summer, a few options include:

1. Do BSC 498 in the summer for summer credit, pay summer tuition, and complete all assignments prior to the last day of classes in summer session 2. All work will be completed in the summer, including the thesis draft. You can enroll in BSC 499 for the fall. Few students choose this option due to paying summer tuition.
2. Do BSC 498 in the summer, but enroll in the course for the fall semester, pay fall tuition, but still complete all assignments in the summer. Your thesis would be due by the first day of class for the fall semester instead of the last day of summer session 2. You can enroll in BSC 499 for the fall. Students who want to do summer research for BSC 498 and then complete BSC 499 in the following fall typically do this.
3. Do BSC 498 during the summer and early fall, enroll in the course for the fall semester, pay fall tuition, complete the research and assignments during the summer. Your thesis draft would be due mid-fall (~ September 15th). You would be eligible to enroll in BSC 499 in the spring semester. Students who want to do summer research for BSC 498 but complete BSC 499 at a later time typically do this.