

Application Process for BS Students Interested in the NSBH Honors Program:

REQUIREMENTS for application:

To apply for the honors track, you must:

1. Be a BS major in the NSBH program and currently in the third year of study. (BA students should contact Dr. Venter for more information on the options.)
2. Be currently active in a research lab project or have already completed 1 or more semesters of an undergraduate research project and plan to continue that work for at least two more semesters (one of which may be a summer term).
3. Be conducting your research project under the mentorship of an NSBH-affiliated faculty member (check here: <https://neuroscienceandbehavior.nd.edu/affiliated-faculty/>). NSBH-affiliated faculty are not restricted by college, school, or departmental affiliations. Please note that even for program-affiliated faculty, a “non-neuro” project in their labs would not be appropriate.
4. Possess and maintain >3.25 GPA in the NSBH major’s associated courses. (Those with GPA's currently below this level may still apply for special consideration.)

APPLICATION PROCESS: Usually due last week of October or first week of November annually

Send the following items to Dr. Boyd (boyd.1@nd.edu):

1. **Cover letter:** The cover letter should be approximately one page in length and include contact information, college, major, year, research mentor’s name, interest in applying to the honors program, and career plans. The cover letter should also detail participation in other research programs, such as the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars program or Glynn Family Honors program. Describe any weaknesses, concerns, or extenuating circumstances related to your application, if applicable.
2. **Research statement:** This document (max of 4 pages) should include: (1) A description of previous research experiences in courses, the mentor’s laboratory, and elsewhere; (2) Description of proposed research project that would lead to a senior thesis.
3. **Transcript:** A current copy of your Notre Dame academic transcript. An unofficial copy is acceptable.
4. **Nomination letter** from faculty mentor: This letter should describe overall assessment of the student’s potential and past performance, including likelihood that the student can complete the honors program requirements. Faculty mentors should review and comment on the student’s research statement and the feasibility of the proposed project.

Questions? Please write Dr. Boyd, boyd.1@nd.edu

Requirements for Graduation with NSBH Honors

To graduate with the transcript designation of “Honors in Neuroscience and Behavior,” students accepted in the Honors Program must:

1. Successfully complete a series of honor seminar courses offered during the junior and senior year. To best meet the needs of students working in labs in different departments across campus, there are multiple routes to meeting this requirement. Three seminars are required. The most common option is to take the 3-term sequence in NSBH. Approved seminars in other departments may be substituted.
2. Successfully complete at least three semesters of independent undergraduate research. At least one summer of full-time research is highly encouraged. Students are expected to stay in the same laboratory for all terms (exceptions may be provided when a specific collaborative project is promoted by switching labs and this is approved in advance by the honors program director).
3. Achieve a final cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher in science courses at the time of graduation.
4. Complete an approved written thesis, prepared according to the standards described by the preparatory honors seminar courses and submitted by the designated deadline, typically set three weeks prior to the end of the Spring semester of a student’s senior year. The approval process will involve one or more critical reviews of the thesis by the faculty adviser, the honors program director, the instructor of the senior spring writing seminar, and/or an independent NS&B program reader. The same thesis can be accepted for Honors in Neuroscience and Behavior and Honors in the Glynn Family program, if it meets the requirements of both.
5. Presentation of the thesis findings at a scientific conference. Presentations at either on or off campus venues are acceptable.