GEMSTONE HONORS PROGRAM

TIMELINE FOR TEAM SUCCESS

A quick overview of our four-year interdisciplinary research program and its requirements!

**FIRST-YEAR**
Students will explore research topics, make connections between research and social innovation, and form research teams.

**FOURTH-YEAR**
Students will complete data collection and data analysis, defend their thesis at Thesis Conference in front of a panel of experts in the team’s field, and submit and publish their final thesis.

**SECOND-YEAR**
Students will study research design and methods, write a formal proposal for their team’s research project, and begin data collection.

**THIRD-YEAR**
Students will continue data collection, present preliminary research results at Junior Colloqua and Undergraduate Research Day, and may present at conferences in their research field.

**FALL SEMESTER**
**REQUIRED COURSE:**
GEMS100 (1 credit)
- Introduction to the University of Maryland and the Gemstone Honors Program
- Experiential Internship
- Research Exploration
- Mock Project Sheet

**SPRING SEMESTER**
**REQUIRED COURSES:**
GEMS102 (1 credit)**
GEMS104 (3 credits)**
- Project Sheet Submission and Voting
- Mock Gemstone team group project & paper (also presented at Undergraduate Research Day)
- Team Formation

**SECOND-YEAR**
**REQUARED COURSE(S):**
GEMS202 (2 credits)**
GEMS296 (1 credit)
- Develop research focus
- Explore team dynamics
- Explore methods and literature
- Complete research proposal draft
- Learn appropriate writing style
- Set short & long term goals

**SPRING SEMESTER**
**REQUIRED COURSE(S):**
GEMS297 (2 credits)
- Continue literature review
- Formulate and defend thesis proposal
- Obtain IRB/IACUC approval
- Begin data collection
- Find funding & develop budget

Courses designated with a ** are only offered at one time each semester. Students must work around the day/time this course is scheduled.
THIRD-YEAR

FALL SEMESTER
REQUIRED COURSE:
GEMS396 (2 credits)
- Continue research data collection (such as administering surveys, working in the lab, finishing a draft prototype, etc)
- Present preliminary research at Junior Colloquia
- Find experts in field to guide research
- Develop final outline of thesis
- Continue literature review

SPRING SEMESTER
REQUIRED COURSE:
GEMS397 (2 credits)
- Finish data collection
- Begin initial draft of thesis
- Obtain feedback and revise chapters 1, 2, and 3 of thesis
- Continue identifying professional conferences, meetings, journals, etc.
- Present research at Undergraduate Research Day

FOURTH-YEAR

FALL SEMESTER
REQUIRED COURSE:
GEMS496 (2 credits)
- Find & invite experts to serve as discussants for Thesis Conference
- Draft presentation for Thesis Conference
- Present at professional conferences
- Finish data analysis
- Revise thesis draft

SPRING SEMESTER
REQUIRED COURSE:
GEMS497 (2 credits)
- Update website
- Attend Gemstone Citation Ceremony
- Practice presentation at Thesis Rehearsal
- Present & defend research at Thesis Conference
- Submit final team thesis

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MANY TOTAL CREDITS DOES GEMSTONE REQUIRE?
There are 18 required Gemstone credits. To successfully receive a Gemstone Honors Citation, students must:
- Receive a minimum C- or better in all required Gemstone courses (listed above, total 18 credits)
- Contribute to and attend Thesis Conference (held senior spring)
- Contribute to and submit final team thesis

WHICH COURSES COUNT TOWARDS GENERAL EDUCATION?
GEMS104 (DSHS or DSHU or DSSP, SCIS)
GEMS202 (DSSP)
* Upon completion of GEMS497, students satisfy 6 credits for the DSSP category.

CAN GEMSTONE STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD OR GO ON A CO-OP??
Yes! Gemstone students must submit a learning contract to the Gemstone office. Students may ONLY study abroad or go on a co-op during the following times:
- A full semester during their sophomore spring, junior fall, or junior spring
- Any winter or summer term

WHAT IS THE "GEMS208" COURSE SERIES?
Many of our students hold leadership positions within the program and are able to receive academic credit for their involvement. A "GEMS208" course is NOT required for a Gemstone Honors Citation, but may be repeated.

For more information, visit our Academic Procedures page at gemstone.umd.edu/academics/procedures.html

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