

Science Courses at B-CC: What differentiates Honors from On-Level?

Science Course	What differentiates Honors from On-level?	Skills Helpful to Have for Honors	Relevant Indicators* (PARCC & Course Grades)	Recommended Concurrent Math Course
9th Grade On-Level Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Level of scaffolding for writing tasks (e.g., constructing arguments) -Level of abstract thinking required to complete tasks (e.g., developing and using a model) -Assessments are differentiated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Constructing scientific explanations with claim, evidence, and reasoning. -Developing and using scientific models for abstract phenomena 		n/a
9th Grade Honors Biology			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MISA Score: 400 or higher PARCC ELA Score: 750 or higher A or B in English class 	n/a
10th Grade On-Level Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Less review of math concepts in Honors -More content is covered at a faster pace in Honors -Honors assessments require more distant transfer of knowledge -Honors assessments require more challenging mathematical problem solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Solving for x -Using exponents & scientific notation -Multiplying & dividing fractions -Constructing graphs and finding the line of best fit -Abstract thinking skills -Strong language acquisition skills -Transferring knowledge to unfamiliar contexts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 Geometry Honors Geometry Algebra 2 2-Year Algebra 2 Honors Geometry**
10th Grade Honors Chemistry			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PARCC ELA Score: 770 or higher PARCC Alg 1 Score: 770 or higher A or B in an Honors math course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honors Algebra 2 Honors Precalculus
11th Grade On-Level Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Less review of math concepts in Honors -More content is covered at a faster pace in Honors -Honors assessments require more distant transfer of knowledge -Honors assessments require more challenging mathematical problem solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The same math skills needed for Honors Chemistry -Strong algebra skills, such as simplifying polynomial equations -Strong geometry skills, such as finding angles and solving for volume and surface area -Abstract thinking skills -Transferring knowledge to unfamiliar contexts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 2 2-Year Algebra 2 Honors Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus Honors Algebra 2**
11th Grade Honors Physics			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PARCC Alg 1 Score: 770 or higher A or B in an Honors math course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honors Pre-Calculus AP Calculus AP Statistics IB Math

*These indicators are merely correlational and should not be considered strict cut-offs. Some students do not test well but perform well in the classroom setting.

**Some students in these math courses tend to be successful in the Honors science course and should be considered on a case-by-case basis in a way that includes other indicators.

Assessment Differentiation Example for Biology and Honors Biology

Honors students are assessed differently using the rubric. They are expected to use the graphic organizer on left, while on-level students are encouraged to use the graphic organizer on the right.

Prompt: Based on the food web and the provided data, should we allow unregulated Sheephead fishing to continue?

A successful conclusion will include...	Points available (Honors)	Points available (On Level)	Points earned
A clearly stated and accurate claim.	2	2	
A clear explanation of what will happen to each species in the food web given the sea lion decrease AND the unregulated Sheephead fishing	5	8	
At least three pieces of data that support your explanation	3	3	
Total	10	13 (max of 10 in the gradebook)	

Type your answer in the box below OR in the graphic organizer on the next page. *Suggested word count: 400-500 words.*

Type your answer in the graphic organizer below OR in the box on the previous page.

A clearly stated claim.	
A clear explanation of what will happen to each species in the food web given the sea lion decrease AND the unregulated Sheephead fishing. <i>Suggested word count: at least 300 words</i>	
At least three pieces of data that support your explanation	