Revision Of Undergraduate And Graduate Programs

Format For Review By University Curriculum Committee (UCC) and Graduate Council.

1. Proposing College / School:  Office of the Provost
   Department:  Honors College

2. Title of Affected Program:  Honors College

3. CIP Code of Affected Program:  
   (If applicable)

4. Proposed Implementation Date:  Fall 2014

5. Justification:
   (Include a concise, yet adequate rationale for the revision of the program, citing accreditation, assessments (faculty, graduate, and/or external) where applicable.)

   Based on faculty and student input as well as responding to the Honors College Task Force Report, this revision of the Honors College curriculum will eliminate the Honors Scholar designation and adjust the requirements for the University Honors Scholar designation. This change reflects the desire to strengthen the academic opportunities and raise the profile of the Honors College within Auburn University as well as to improve the program’s flexibility so as to facilitate a four-year Honors experience.

6. Current Degree Requirements (Including All Formal Options):
   (Provide the current curriculum model for the program, as well as for each formal option.)

The Honors College

The Honors College at Auburn University offers a select cohort of high-ability students a unique academic experience designed to provide many of the advantages of a small college in addition to the myriad opportunities available at a large and diverse research university. Students in the Honors College receive a more intensive and innovative education than is available in the regular curriculum. These advantages include small class sizes, specialized advising, and regular exposure to diverse social and co-curricular programs. Honors students have close personal contacts with their teachers and with other students, providing a sense of community and identity within the larger university context.

Eligibility

Entering freshmen as well as currently enrolled students who demonstrate the potential for outstanding academic achievement may apply for admission into the Honors College. Selection of incoming freshmen is based on ACT/SAT scores (29/1290 minimum), high school GPA (3.75 minimum), an application essay and a record of leadership and service. Students enrolled at Auburn who have a 3.4 unadjusted GPA may also be considered for admission.

Curriculum

The Honors Curriculum has two components, the Honors College Courses and the Honors Apogee/Capstone Experience.
The Honors College Courses were developed to provide Honors students an opportunity for broad enriching educational experiences primarily based on Auburn’s Core Curriculum. To complete the Honors College course requirements, students are required to:

Maintain a minimum unadjusted 3.2 GPA

Complete a minimum of 18 Honors hours in the following areas:

- Honors University Core Courses
- Honors Interdisciplinary Symposia
- Honors Departmental Courses
- Honors Contracted Courses

Complete a minimum of 4 hours of Honors Participation Courses.

The Honors Apogee/Capstone Experience offers Honors students the choice of completing the Thesis/Project Option or the Seminar Option. The Seminar Option requires the completion of two 3-hour, 3000-level Honors Seminars. The Thesis/Project Option may be intra-disciplinary or interdisciplinary. It may be a traditional Honors thesis or a conference style presentation, a portfolio, a performance, approved service learning project, a project based on a substantial study abroad experience, or an identifiable part of a team (senior design) project. Students selecting the Thesis/Project Option are required to complete 6 hours of Special Problems/Thesis/Project/Undergraduate Research/Contract courses under the direction of a faculty member in the student’s major and write a thesis or give a podium presentation. Completing an undergraduate thesis is a significant achievement that is noted by admission committees for graduate and professional schools.

Thesis/Project Option. Honors students must:

- Maintain an unadjusted 3.2 overall GPA
- Complete at least 3 hours in the Honors Special Problems/Thesis/Project/Undergraduate Research/Contract course
- Complete at least 3 hours in the Honors Thesis/Project course.

Seminar Option. Honors students must:

- Maintain an unadjusted 3.2 overall GPA
- Complete at least 6 hours in the 3000-level Honors Seminars.

Honors Distinctions

After completing the requirements of the Honors College Curriculum, students graduate with a special designation that is noted on their diploma and transcript.

To graduate as an Honors Scholar students must complete the Honors College Course requirements, the requirements for their discipline, and have a minimum cumulative unadjusted GPA of 3.2 – OR – complete the Honors Apogee/Capstone Experience (Thesis/Project Option), a predetermined number of Honors Participation Courses, the requirements for their discipline, and have a minimum cumulative unadjusted GPA of 3.2.

To graduate as a University Honors Scholar students must complete all requirements of the Honors College Courses and Honors Apogee/Capstone Experience, the requirements for their discipline, and have a minimum cumulative unadjusted GPA of 3.4.
7. Proposed Degree Requirements (Including All Formal Options):
(Provide the proposed curriculum model for the program, as well as for each formal option.)

The Honors College
The Honors College (HC) at Auburn University offers a select cohort of high-ability students a unique academic experience designed to provide many of the advantages of a small college in addition to the myriad opportunities available at a large and diverse research university. Because of their academic potential, Honors College students have access to a more academically challenging set of courses and programs. Due to their rigorous Honors-level courses, access to graduate courses, specialized advising, and regular exposure to diverse social and co-curricular programs, Honors students have closer connections to faculty and with other students, providing a sense of community and identity within the larger university context.

Eligibility
Students may gain admission to the Honors College as an entering freshman based on ACT/SAT scores (29/1290 minimum), high school GPA (3.75 minimum), an application essay, and a record of leadership and service. Selection will be based upon their academic record along with an application essay. A second opportunity to join the Honors College will also be available to first-year students who have a 3.4 unadjusted Auburn GPA.

Curriculum
The Honors curriculum has been developed to provide Honors College students the opportunity for challenging scholarly courses across the university and within their disciplines, culminating in a sustained, in-depth experience in their major fields of study.

Honors College students are required to complete 30 hours of Honors-level credit. The 30 hours must be selected from A and B (below).

Curriculum
The Honors curriculum has been developed to provide Honors College students the opportunity for challenging scholarly courses across the university and within their disciplines, culminating in a sustained, in-depth experience in their major fields of study.

Honors College students are required to complete 30 hours of Honors-level credit. The 30 hours must be selected from A and B (below).

A. Students may select courses from the following areas:
   - Honors University Core courses
   - Honors Departmental courses
   - Graduate-level course in the major field of study
   - Honors Study and Travel courses (maximum of 1)
   - Honors Seminars (maximum of 2)
   - Honors Research Seminar
   - Honors Contract courses
   - Honors Participation courses (maximum of 3)
     - Honors Freshmen Exploration (one-time enrollment as a first-year student)
     - Honors Lyceum (maximum of 2)
     - Honors Book Club (maximum of 2)
     - Honors Forum (maximum of 2)

B. Students must complete one of the following Honors experiences:
   - Departmental Capstone course(s) at the Honors level (credit hours defined by department)
   - Honors Research and Thesis (minimum of 6 hours)
   - Three graduate-level courses in the major field of study (minimum of 9 hours)

Students must also complete their disciplinary requirements and have a 3.4 minimum cumulative unadjusted Auburn GPA at the time of graduation.

Policies
A grade of “B” or better in Honors courses is required to earn Honors College credit.
In order to remain in good standing as a member of the Honors College, students must meet the following minimum criteria:

I. Students are required to complete a minimum of two Honors courses per academic year.

II. First-year students must attain a minimum of a 3.2 cumulative unadjusted Auburn GPA and second, third, and
fourth-year students must maintain a minimum of 3.4 cumulative unadjusted Auburn GPA. A student whose GPA falls below the minimum is give one semester to correct the deficiency or be suspended from the Honors College.

III. All first-year students in the Honors College must meet with an Honors Academic Advisor and submit a Plan of Study prior to registration for spring courses. Any changes to the Plan of Study should be done at a meeting with an Honors College Advisor.

IV. Second, third, and fourth-year students should meet with an Honors Academic Advisor at least once a year to ensure retention and understanding of the program and to confirm progress being made toward the completion of the Honors requirements.

V. Students who do not successfully maintain good standing (Honors course progression, GPA, and/or submission of the Plan of Study) will be suspended from the Honors College. Students may be reinstated upon attaining the minimum GPA and/or providing the Honors College with an updated Plan of Study for Honors courses. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the College when good standing has been attained.

VI. Any scholarships awarded by the Honors College are contingent upon maintaining membership in good standing in the Honors College. Suspension from the Honors College will result in a loss of Honors scholarship funding.

Honors College Graduation Distinction
After completing the requirements of the Honors College curriculum, students graduate with a special designation that is noted on their diploma and transcript.

To graduate as a University Honors Scholar students must complete all requirements of the Honors College, the requirements for their disciplines, and have a minimum cumulative unadjusted Auburn GPA of 3.4.

8. New Courses Required:
(Indicate which courses -- if any -- are part of the curriculum that are not currently offered.)

Honors Forum, Honors Research Seminar, Departmental Capstone courses at the Honors level

9. Relationship of Proposed Program to Other Auburn University Programs:
(If the proposed program revision affects any other unit and/or covers material offered by another college/school, attach correspondence with relevant unit.)

Will the program revision affect other program(s) and/or units at Auburn University? ○ Yes ○ No

Will the program revision replace any existing program(s), or specializations / options / concentrations within existing program(s) at Auburn University? ○ Yes ○ No

10. New or Additional Resources / Resource Shifting Required:
(If "yes" for any item, please provide explanation in the space provided below.)

Will additional faculty lines be required? ○ Yes ○ No

Will new or additional space (e.g.: laboratory or classroom) be required? ○ Yes ○ No

Will additional library resources be required? ○ Yes ○ No

Will additional GTA support be required? ○ Yes ○ No

Explanation of or provision for new or additional resources / explanation of program’s support or replacement of other programs:

N/A

11. Distance Education:
(If Distance Education will be incorporated in the delivery of the proposed program, provide details of implementation, scope, etc.)

N/A
Information for the University Curriculum Committee

A Narrative Description of the CORRECTION to the Revisions of the Honors Curriculum

Introduction

On September 18, 2013, the Honors College submitted the Revision of Undergraduate and Graduate Programs form, which was approved by the University Curriculum Committee. An error in the form has been identified in Section 7, Proposed Degree Requirements. The attached form contains the corrected information.

Section 7. Proposed Degree Requirements

The following sentence was included in the Narrative Description that was submitted on September 18, 2013, and accurately reflects the intent of the Program change.

The revised curriculum will require a minimum of 30 hours of Honors coursework. Included in this total is a maximum of 3 hours of Honors Participation courses, and one of the following: 3-6 credit hours of a Department Capstone at the Honors level, 6 credit hours of Research/Thesis, or 9 credit hours of graduate-level courses.

However, the verbiage used in the form (under the heading “Curriculum”) would have required students to complete a minimum of 33-39 Honors hours instead of the intended 30 Honors Hours. Therefore, the corrected verbiage is now being submitted (see below).

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A. Students may select courses from the following areas:
   - Honors University Core courses
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B. Students must complete one of the following Honors experiences:
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