

University Honors & Scholars Center Guidelines for the Proposal of Semester-based Honors Programs

Approval Process: Unit > College > University Honors & Scholars Center (Honors Faculty Advisory Committee) > Approval > Council on Academic Affairs

Introduction: In accordance with the mission of the university Honors program of developing and supporting the intellectual and personal development of high ability undergraduate students, the following expectations should be dealt with in some fashion in your responses below. Honors programs should:

- promote significant interaction between faculty and students;
- develop the creative abilities of Honors students;
- require high standards of academic achievement;
- include Honors courses that require enhanced breadth and depth of material;
- expose students to use of methodology and research techniques
- promote intellectual exchange among students;
- promote interdisciplinary work and study

Please address the following:

A. Purpose of continuing and converting this program:

The John Glenn School of Public Affairs has recently developed a new undergraduate degree program, the Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs. At the conclusion of the 2010-2011 academic year, over 100 students have enrolled in the major, a number far surpassing the first-year projections. As the major grows, it is likely to continue to attract a large number of high ability students who strive for success in the classroom and community. In order to better serve these individuals, and to allow them to best take advantage of all the opportunities available at Ohio State, the Glenn School submitted a proposal for a quarter-based Honors program earlier this year. With the University transitioning to semesters in summer 2012, we want to continue to best serve high ability students, and therefore propose the creation of a semester-based Honors program for students enrolled in the Public Affairs major.

B. Students to be served (number to be advised, enrollment process, eligibility for continuance, reinstatement process (if applicable), communication with students, etc.)

On average, 25% of Public Affairs majors will be Honors students. In order to retain Honors status during their first two years, students must adhere to the Glenn School and University academic standards. Honors students should meet with their academic advisor during their first semester on campus in order to begin mapping out their Honors curriculum requirements, and must have their Honors contracts approved by spring semester of their sophomore year. In order to graduate with Honors in Public Affairs, students will need to complete the courses outlined in their approved Honors contract. Deviation from the Honors contract without prior approval can result in dismissal from the Honors program. Students dismissed from the Honors program, will be ineligible for reinstatement.

C. Specific structure of Honors Program requirements - Note: The proposed college standards must be equal to or greater than the university standards listed below. If the college wishes to propose a substitution for a standard, a description and explanation of how this would fulfill the goals of the Honors requirement will be necessary.

1. GPA requirement to maintain Honors status:

University standard: 3.4 at the end of every year (if desired, 3.3 end of first year only)

Proposed college standard: 3.4 at the end of every year

2. Requirements to enter Honors program after matriculation or transfer to the university:

University standards: 3.4 GPA
Minimum 1 semesters of credit earned (15 credits) at Ohio State

Proposed college standard: 3.4 GPA
Minimum 1 semesters of credit earned (15 credits) at Ohio State

3. Course requirements to maintain Honors status:

University standard: 6 Honors, upper division (4000+), or graduate-level courses over the first 2 years (maximum of 2 Honors embedded courses)

Proposed college standard: 6 Honors, upper division (4000+), or graduate-level courses over the first 2 years (maximum of 2 Honors embedded courses)

Note: If requesting an exception for your college program or for specific major(s) within your college, please describe the proposed equivalent Honors experience and provide a rationale.

4. Program requirement to maintain Honors status/graduate in the Honors Program:

University standard: Progress towards completion of an approved Honors program, i.e., Honors thesis for graduation with distinction, or program to graduate with Honors in the discipline

Proposed college standard: Progress towards completion of an approved Honors program as designated by the John Glenn School of Public Affairs Honors Committee. The JGSPA Honors curriculum will require students to complete approved GE classes which will include honors, upper division, and other relevant courses. Students must also complete the Public Affairs core courses, as well as a specialization track approved by the JGSPA Honors Committee. Currently the Public Affairs major includes three interdisciplinary specialization tracks with the intention of developing additional tracks. Non-honors students have the option of choosing one of these tracks OR an approved minor in order to complete the specialization requirement. Honors students will be required to take the most challenging courses in order to complete the specialization requirements, and therefore will need to have their specialization coursework approved in advance by the Glenn School Honors Committee. Honors students may also consider a dual degree program instead of a specialization area. Students must complete the curriculum outlined in their approved Honors contract in order to graduate with Honors in Public Affairs. Finally, Honors students will have the option of writing an Honors thesis with a Glenn School faculty member. A thesis will not be required in order to graduate with Honors in Public Affairs, but the option will be available to interested students. Upon completion, all components of Honors contracts will undergo a thorough review process by the Glenn School Honors

Committee. Any modifications to an approved Honors contract must be approved by the Glenn School Honors committee.

D. Honors Courses (if applicable - new, modified)

The Glenn School has already submitted a conversion proposal for one honors course under semesters, Public Affairs 5750H—Public Policy: The Business-Government Relationship (3 credits). This course may be required for Honors students in the Public Affairs major beginning Autumn 2012, depending on their chosen specialization track. Our plan is to introduce additional new Honors courses in the upcoming years.

E. Staffing of program (Honors committee, Honors advisors, faculty mentors, etc.)

All Honors students will be assigned an academic advisor from the Glenn School. This person will work with the Honors students to develop their respective curricula and select courses for the GE and specialization track(s). Honors contracts will be approved by a JGSPA Honors committee consisting of two faculty members, the Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs, and the Director of Admissions and Student Services. Honors students will also have the opportunity to perform research with members of the JGSPA faculty.

F. Transition Students

Like all colleges, schools, and departments on campus, the Glenn School will have a number of Honors students who began their respective programs under quarters, but will complete them under semesters. The Glenn School will have a transition plan in place for these individuals. The Public Affairs BA as a whole will undergo a neutral conversion, with the core courses shifting from quarter to semester length. As such, this will not require Honors transition students to make significant curricular modifications in this area. The general education and specialization requirements will change under semesters, and Honors students will be directed to their academic advisors to make any necessary adjustments to their Honors contracts. Honors contracts for transition students will be reviewed individually by the Glenn School Honors Committee to insure that the needs of the students are being met under the Pledge to Students; and the integrity and rigor of the Honors program are preserved.

G. Letter of support from unit head (dean, chair, director, etc.)

This completed form and supporting materials should be sent electronically to Anne Krabacher (krabacher.4@osu.edu), Associate Director, University Honors and Scholars Center, for approval, and then forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs for review by CAA. Questions? Contact Anne Krabacher at 292-3135.



June 27, 2011

Dr. Linn Van Woerkom
Associate Provost & Director
University Honors & Scholars Center

Dear Dr. Van Woerkom:

On behalf of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, I am very pleased to submit the attached proposal for a semester-based Honors Program in Public Affairs. Since being approved in May 2010, the Glenn School's Bachelor of Art degree program has thrived at Ohio State. At the end of the 2010-2011 academic year, over one hundred students were enrolled in the program. This represents a 740% increase over what was expected in the first year, according to the projections included in the initial major proposal.

Included in this group of Public Affairs majors is a large number of high-ability students. In spring 2011, 38% of all undergraduate students in the Public Affairs qualified for Dean's List distinction. Currently around 20% of all Public Affairs majors carry Honors designation. In order to best serve the needs of these individuals, as well as future students who will choose to major in Public Affairs, we submitted a proposal for a quarter length Honors program in March, which your office approved. With the upcoming conversion to semesters, we present to you the attached proposal for a semester-based Honors program in Public Affairs

The proposed Honors program adheres to all University Honors guidelines, and is in line with a number of pre-existing Honors curricula from Colleges throughout Ohio State. We feel that it allows Honors students to take the most challenging course load possible, including a large number of Honors and upper division courses. As no two students are alike in terms of academic interest or goals, our Honors program has a high degree of flexibility, and allows students to craft individual programs of study to fit their unique needs. All Public Affairs Honors curricula must be sufficiently rigorous, and are subject to approval by the Glenn School's Honors Committee.

The faculty and staff at the Glenn School are very excited about the possibility of having an Honors program available to our ever growing population of students majoring in Public Affairs. We hope that the Honors and Scholars review committee will find our proposal to be acceptable, and we look forward to working with you in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Brown", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor Brown, PhD
Associate Director for Academic Affairs and Research
John Glenn School of Public Affairs

College Requirements to Maintain Honors Status Semester Version

Program Name: John Glenn School of Public Affairs

Honors Director:

Name: Chris Adams
Office: 110F Page Hall
email: adams.615@osu.edu
Phone: 247-2512

GPA Requirement:

3.4 at the end of every year

Course Requirements:

6 Honors, upper division (3000+), or graduate-level courses over the first 2 years (maximum of 2 Honors embedded courses)

Graduation Program Requirement:

Students must complete the curriculum outlined in their approved Honors contract in order to graduate with Honors in Public Affairs. Honors students will have the option of writing an Honors thesis with a Glenn School faculty member.

Requirements to Enter Honors after Enrollment at OSU or Transfer to OSU:

3.4 GPA and a minimum of 1 semester (15 credits) of OSU graded course credit

Special instructions for students transitioning from quarters:

The Glenn School will have a transition plan in place for these individuals. The Public Affairs BA as a whole will undergo a neutral conversion, with the core courses shifting from quarter to semester length. As such, this will not require Honors transition students to make significant curricular modifications in this area. The general education and specialization requirements will change under semesters, and Honors students will be directed to their academic advisors to make any necessary adjustments to their Honors contracts. Honors contracts for transition students will be reviewed individually by the Glenn School Honors Committee to insure that the needs of the students are being met under the Pledge to Students; and the integrity and rigor of the Honors program are preserved.