

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

<p>PROPOSAL FOR THE SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES</p>

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 School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) Honors Programs was established for the undergraduate student of superior academic ability in order to challenge the capable and high-achieving student. The program continues to produce highly professional and knowledgeable students within their respective fields of study with demonstrated research skills. In addition, enrollment into the program continues to increase. The majority of students continue on into graduate programs or professional schools. Accordingly, SENR desires to continue this successful and challenging program for students with high academic abilities and motivation as an alternative approach to pursue education.

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

An average of 40 students will be served by the SENR Honors Program. Students will have a choice of four different majors representing 18 different career tracks or options.

It is anticipated that honors student will represent approximately 8.5% of the total enrollment within the School. Before potential honors students apply to the SENR Honors Program, an appropriate adviser is determined for each student. The adviser will be determined through interviews with the student by the Director of the SENR Honors program. The adviser selection will be based on the student's academic, career, and research goals. Honors students must apply to the SENR Honors Program by filling out an application form and submitting this along with their proposed program of study. The student's adviser will assist the student with the development of their program of study and their research project. Once these documents are submitted, the student will be admitted to the SENR Honors Program. Students admitted as a University Honors Affiliate as freshmen should have a 3.4 CPHR and are encouraged to submit a program of study plan after Autumn Semester of their first year. The Individual Honors Curriculum must be reviewed and approved by the SENR Honors Chair and the SENR School Secretary. Those students who do not submit an Individualized Honors Curriculum after Autumn Semester of their first year will lose Honors status after Spring semester until it is submitted. Students not admitted to the program as freshmen may acquire Honors status upon approval of the honors program study plan after Autumn semester of their first year. Transfer students from other OSU colleges or colleges and universities outside of OSU should have attained a comparable academic standing. They too will need to submit an honors program study plan for review and approval to the SENR Honors Chair and the SENR School Secretary. Students will also need to have earned at least a 3.4 CPHR at The Ohio State University. SENR Honors students are required to maintain a minimum 3.5 CPHR in their major coursework. The "H" designation will be posted upon approval. The best opportunity, however, to gain the most from the Honors Program is to be admitted prior to the junior year. SENR will still require an Honors project of all students in the SENR Honors Program. If a student's GPA falls below the minimum standards while in the program, they will be placed on probation for one semester until their GPA is raised or reasonable progress is demonstrated. If neither of these standards is met, the student will be dismissed from the honors program and their program of study is converted to the appropriate traditional program.

Transitioning Current Students to Semesters: The program of study for each student will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis during the transition from quarters to semesters, and adjustments made to each program accordingly. Since each student has a unique program of study and will be at different phases within their programs during the transition period, a standardized treatment will be impractical. Each faculty advisor will be required to meet with their honors student to evaluate the student's program and make the appropriate changes.

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 School standard: *3.4 at the end of every year, except 3.3 and the end of the first year only*

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 School standard: *3.4 GPA after 1 semester of credit earned (15 credits) at Ohio State*

3. Course requirements to maintain Honors status:

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

Proposed School standard:

- *A minimum of six honors or honors embedded (max of two) courses must be taken within the first three years of college study beyond high school graduation.*
- *As established by each SENR major, the minimum requirements in each category of the General Education must be completed and indicated on the student's Honors study plan. Students are encouraged to strengthen the General Education where appropriate.*
- *A yearly plan showing how the requirement of six honors or honors embedded courses in the first three years or equivalent will be met.*
- *Study abroad (at least six weeks in length) may substitute for one honors course. A second study abroad (at least six weeks in length) may substitute for a second honors course. In order to substitute for an Honors course, the study abroad course should have relevance to the student's program of study or statement of purpose submitted with their Honor's application. Study abroad programs include all programs administered through the Office of International Affairs (OIA). It is hoped that through this option provided to students that they will be encouraged to participate in these programs to broaden their view, knowledge and understanding of the world, various cultures and environments, and*

how it relates to their chosen fields of study. Programs of at least six-week length provides a rigor and unique learning opportunity not otherwise offered in typical courses.

- *Upper division courses (4000 and above) taken within the first 2 years of college study beyond high school graduation may substitute for an honors course.*

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 School standard:

Please provide details and any supporting documents or forms (e.g., checklists, contracts, etc.) to describe your proposed program.

- *The Honors Program of Study must be submitted by the end of the first year*
- *The Honors Research Proposal must be submitted by the end of the third year*
- *The Honors thesis must be defended through oral defense the semester of graduation.*
- *The oral defense committee will be comprised of three faculty members, which include: 1) the student's faculty advisor, 2) a faculty member in the School with appropriate area of expertise, and 3) a faculty representative of the School Honors Committee (see "Staffing of Program").*
- *A minimum GPA of 3.4 must be maintained in the overall program of study*
- *A minimum GPA of 3.5 must be maintained in the major coursework defined in the student's Honors Program of Study*

5. Combined Programs

University standard: None Given

Proposed School standard:

The proposed combined B.S./M.S. or B.S./MENR programs are a conversion of quarter hours to semester hours. Otherwise, the proposed program is a continuation of procedures, actions, and policies under the current quarter system.

- a) *Combined B.S./M.S. in Environment and Natural Resources*
- b) *Combined B.S./M.S. in Environmental Science*
- c) *Combined B.S./MENR*

SENR provides the opportunity for a combined B.S./Masters degree programs for those outstanding students who are in the Honors program and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA overall and want to complete both degrees simultaneously. In the summer prior to the senior year the student and faculty adviser will develop a list of courses to earn the Masters degree from either the M.S. in Environment and Natural Resources program, the Interdisciplinary Environmental Science graduate program, or the Professional Masters in Environment and Natural Resources program. The student's graduate curriculum is then approved by the student's graduate committee. The Honors program of study is revised and submitted to the SENR Honors Director and SENR School Secretary for approval. Once approved, it moves on to the Graduate School. If approved, the student is enrolled in the Graduate School, paying graduate level fees for that senior year or until the completion of both degrees. The Honors project is replaced by the Master's Thesis or Masters Project so that only one research project is expected. Courses at the 5000 level can overlap between the B.S. and Masters Degree programs.

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

Required Honors Courses:

- *ENR 1000H – honors freshman orientation course, 1 semester hr.*
- *ENR 4890H – Honors research colloquium (research proposal writing course), 1 semester hr.*
- *ENR 4683H – SENR Honors Research Credits, 1 – 3 semester hrs.*

(NOTE: These are currently required courses in the quarter system. No changes are proposed in course content or structure)

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

SENR Honors Program Director:

- *Dr. Roger A. Williams*

SENR Honors Committee:

- *Four SENR faculty members (the Honors Program Director serves as Chair)*
- *Associate Director of SENR*
- *SENR Academic Administrative Officer/School Secretary*
- *Undergraduate Program Coordinator*
- *Undergraduate Student Representative*

Honors Advisers:

- *All faculty within SENR will have eligibility to serve as Honors advisers*

F. 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.

College Requirements to Maintain Honors Status Quarter Version

Program Name: School of Environment and Natural Resources Honors Program

Honors Director:

Name: Roger Williams
Office: 367D Kottman Hall
email: williams.1577@osu.edu
Phone: 614.688.4061

GPA Requirement: 3.4 overall; 3.5 within the major

Course Requirements:

6 Honors, upper division (500+), or graduate-level courses over the first 3 years. (Maximum of 2 honors embedded courses can be used toward 6 course requirement) An approved honors contract will be required by the end of their 2nd year to ensure this requirement has been accounted for in the student's plan.

Graduation Program Requirement:

Honors thesis

Other Requirements or Information:

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

3.4 GPA overall after completion of 30 credits at OSU

Updated: August 2010

College Requirements to Maintain Honors Status Semester Version

Program Name: School of Environment and Natural Resources Honors Program

Honors Director:

Name: Roger Williams
Office: 367D Kottman Hall
email: williams.1577@osu.edu
Phone: 614.688.4061

GPA Requirement: 3.4 overall; 3.3 overall at the end of the first year only; 3.5 within the major

Course Requirements:

6 Honors, upper division (3000+), or graduate-level courses over the first 3 years. (Maximum of 2 honors embedded courses can be used toward 6 course requirement) Students must submit an Honors Program of Study by the end of the first year to ensure this requirement has been accounted for in the student's plan.

Graduation Program Requirement:

- The Honors Program of Study must be submitted by the end of the first year
- The Honors Research Proposal must be submitted by the end of the third year
- The Honors thesis must be defended through oral defense the semester of graduation.
- The oral defense committee will be comprised of three faculty members, which include: 1) the student's faculty advisor, 2) a faculty member in the School with appropriate area of expertise, and 3) a faculty representative of the School Honors Committee (see "Staffing of Program").
- A minimum GPA of 3.4 must be maintained in the overall program of study
- A minimum GPA of 3.5 must be maintained in the major coursework defined in the student's Honors Program of Study

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

3.4 GPA overall after completion of 15 credits (1 semester) at OSU

Special instructions for Students transitioning from quarters:

The program of study for each student will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis during the transition from quarters to semesters, and adjustments made to each program accordingly. Since each student has a unique program of study and will be at different phases within their programs during the transition period, a standardized treatment will be impractical. Each faculty advisor will be required to meet with their honors student to evaluate the student's program and make the appropriate changes.