

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 honors program at The Ohio State University at Marion provides highly motivated students the opportunity to challenge themselves inside and outside of the classroom. The increased academic rigor of honors coursework is paired with increased faculty-student interaction as well as increased opportunities to explore course material in greater depth.

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

Potential honors students are identified by their standardized test scores and their high school class rank. These candidates are sent a personal letter that describes the goals and requirements of the program. They are also invited to apply to the program by completing a short application that is reviewed by the Honors Director and the OSUM honors committee.

The honors director meets with students immediately upon acceptance into the program and then at least once per semester thereafter. Requirements for maintaining honors status are reviewed at each meeting and students and director discuss academic progress. Eligibility for continuance is reviewed by the honors director at the end of each spring semester.

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: Same as university standard

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: same as university standard

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 college standard: 4 Honors, upper division (3000+), or graduate-level courses over the first 2 years (maximum of 2 Honors embedded courses)
Participation in OSUM honors Seminar every Spring semester

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.

See attached explanation of the OSUM honors seminar

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: To maintain honors status and graduate in the honors program, students will have to complete a senior honors thesis. Following University guidelines, students will complete the thesis with a tenure-track faculty member serving as project advisor. Ideally, students will begin work on senior honors thesis in Spring semester of their junior year and should complete the project during the Autumn semester of their senior year. Students will be encouraged to submit projects to the Denman competition.

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

Our honors courses are drawn from the list of approved honors courses on the Main campus. We also offer embedded courses that are approved for all campuses and those that are approved only on the regional campuses.

The new proposed honors seminar is presented in attached document.

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

The OSUM Honors Opportunities Committee is composed of five tenure-track faculty members and the honors director. The committee communicates honors requirements to the regular OSUM advisors who are encouraged to include committee members in discussions with students or to ask questions of the committee if they are not able to answer questions.

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

Letter from Dean Greg Rose is forthcoming.

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.

OSU Marion Undergraduate Honors Seminar Proposal

Honors courses at OSU Marion to date

To date, regional campuses struggle to provide a significant array of honors courses due to smaller total enrollments. Many honors students satisfy most of their course requirements with honors-embedded or honors-equivalent options. Although these courses provide the necessary rigor and increased faculty interaction, they do not offer the vital opportunity to interact with a distinct cohort of fellow honors students. Moreover, students lack a centralized experience through which they may reflect upon and integrate the breadth of their honors experiences.

Initiative

The proposed undergraduate honors seminar seeks to address these concerns by making use of the strengths of the smaller, interdisciplinary environment found on a regional campus. It is proposed that all honors students at OSU Marion take the Honors Core Seminar each year. The number of students in the honors program at Marion typically ranges from 15-25 each year. The course would be a 1-credit seminar course designated as ASC 101H. The seminar would be considered a required course for all honor students in the OSU Marion honors program. To maximize student-faculty interaction and make use of the interdisciplinary nature of the regional campus, the seminar-type course will co-taught by two tenured faculty members from separate disciplines. Successful completion of the course would count as one of the 3 honors level courses that are required during freshman and sophomore years.

Rationale

Beyond the specific content of each course, honors students will be offered the opportunity to reflect upon and integrate their honors experiences from other courses. Significantly, the course will offer students the occasion to interact with other motivated, high-ability students, which will raise the level of discourse within the class. This peer interaction will provide a context of both learning and generativity; younger students will learn from the experiences of older students and older students will benefit by helping to guide their younger counterparts. Finally, by providing structure and year-to-year consistency to this cohort of students, the core seminar will better define the honors experience and will increase retention within the honors program and the Marion Campus. In sum, the honors core seminar will significantly heighten student engagement in the honors experience at OSU Marion.

Faculty will also benefit by having the opportunity to teach course content within their scholarly interests and by learning from their co-instructors. This interaction will benefit pedagogy as well as scholarship.

Course topic

The seminar topic would be chosen by the two faculty members (e.g., the topic of moral development could be taught by faculty from psychology, sociology, anthropology, or biology). Although the course topic is open, there will be thematic emphases on exploring the topic in depth and an exposure to the methodology and research techniques relevant to the topic. Furthermore, students will be asked to connect course discussion to their major and to experiences from other honors courses.

Course meetings

The course will meet once a week for 55 minutes (14 weeks X 55 minutes = 770 contact minutes). It will be taught in the spring semester every year at 12 noon, a designated common hour on campus. The day of the week will be determined by the professors.

Metrics

The course would be evaluated using a revised version of the SEI instrument created by the university to specifically assess the success of honors embedded courses. The overall success of the program can be further evaluated by identifying the number of students who graduate from the honors program at OSU Marion.

Resources

The financial resources would include \$2500 for each of the two co-instructors. The academic year total, therefore, would be \$5000 per year. \$4000 will come from the endowed Wm. Kay Davis Fund and \$1000 will come from the Marion Dean's budget.



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June 28, 2011

Anne Krabacher, Associate Director
University Honors and Scholars Center
The Ohio State University

Dear Ms. Krabacher:

I am pleased to provide support for the proposal being submitted by Dr. Chris Daddis, Honors Director on the Marion campus, for the Ohio State Marion Undergraduate Honors Seminar.

I believe this will be an effective step toward building a larger, more connected cadre of honors students on the Marion campus. It takes advantage of our smallness, our closely connected interdisciplinary faculty, and the flexibility we have in establishing the schedule of classes.

The funding sources Dr. Daddis mentions in his proposal will be available. Should budgetary conditions improve and/or the honors program grow to the point that an additional seminar is needed, it may be possible to provide additional funding in support of the seminar course or courses.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Rose".

Dr. Gregory S. Rose
Dean and Director

College Requirements to Maintain Honors Status Semester Version

Program Name: Ohio State University – Marion Campus

Honors Director:

Name: Chris Daddis
Office: 170E Morrill Hall
email: daddis.1@osu.edu
Phone: (740) 725-6109

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

Course Requirements:

4 Honors, upper division (3000+), or graduate-level courses over the first 2 years (maximum of 2 Honors embedded courses); Participation in OSUM honors Seminar every Spring semester

Graduation Program Requirement:

To maintain honors status and graduate in the honors program, students will have to complete a senior honors thesis. Following University guidelines, students will complete the thesis with a tenure-track faculty member serving as project advisor. Ideally, students will begin work on senior honors thesis in Spring semester of their junior year and should complete the project during the Autumn semester of their senior year. Students will be encouraged to submit projects to the Denman competition.

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:

Please meet with Marion Honors Directors to ensure that requirements are being met