

27 April 2023

May 1, 2023

Dear Professor Steinmetz and members of the Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee,

With my support, Arts and Sciences' Academic Enrichment unit is proposing changes to student-facing communications about the Arts Honors Program and its affiliated diploma designations. There are no changes proposed to the structure of the Arts Honors Program requirements.

The proposed changes include:

- Implementing a new marketing strategy and track system for the Arts Honors Program.
- Communicating requirements in terms of credit hours; currently communicated as Honors "units".
- Revising the diploma designation for Arts Honors.
- Revising the diploma designations for creative theses and research theses completed by students in the Arts Honors Program.

The Arts Honors Program, created in 2006, is currently separate from the Arts and Sciences Honors Program and features specialized requirements for Honors students earning a degree in the arts. The specialized requirements, detailed in the attached "Arts Honors Requirements", enable students in the arts to fulfill an Honors contract while completing a rigorous major curriculum, which often includes lockstep coursework, performances, and exhibitions. Arts Honors has maintained its specialized requirements for the past seventeen years because many students in the arts are unable to complete the requirements for Arts and Sciences Honors. For example, Honors (H) and Honors embedded (E) courses often conflict with studios and performance-based coursework.

There is no need to revise the specialized Arts Honors requirements. Rather, the proposed changes will simply modify the way in which Arts Honors is marketed and embedded within the College of Arts and Sciences and how the requirements are communicated to students.

New Marketing Strategy, Track System, and Communication

Under the current model, incoming first-year students in the arts are initially part of Arts and Sciences Honors, as Arts Honors is not listed on the common application for undergraduate admission. Students are asked to switch to Arts Honors during freshman or sophomore year. This process has been a cause of confusion for students, faculty, and staff. As a solution, Arts Honors

will be marketed to students in the arts as a track within Arts and Sciences Honors. Under this model, freshman and sophomore Honors students in the arts will no longer be asked to switch to Arts Honors. Beginning with freshman orientation, students will be assigned to an Arts Honors advisor and informed of the specialized Arts Honors track.

Students with a major in the following departments and schools will follow the Arts Honors track: Department of Art, Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy, Department of Dance, Department of Design, Department of History of Art, Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts, and the School of Music.

While the requirements will not change, we also propose to update the language from Honors “units” to credit hours to help clarify the requirements for students and be in line with Honors & Scholars’ university-wide standards for communicating Honors requirements in credit hours. Currently, one “unit” is typically a class equal to three credit hours. See “Arts Honors Requirements” for requirements written in terms of both units and credit hours.

Revised Diploma Designations

In addition to updating the marketing and communication strategy for Arts Honors, the diploma designations affiliated with the program will be modified. Currently, there is a legacy designation from the College of the Arts, as Arts Honors students graduate ‘with Honors in the Arts.’ After the Arts Honors track is implemented, the diploma designation will be changed to ‘with Honors in the Arts and Sciences.’

Similar changes will be made to the diploma designations related to undergraduate thesis projects. There are two designations currently available to Arts Honors students:

- (1) Completion of a creative thesis results in ‘with Distinction in the major field.’
- (2) Completion of a research thesis results in ‘with Research Distinction in the major field.’

After the Arts Honors track is implemented, the diploma designations will be updated to include the word ‘Honors.’

- (1) Completion of a creative thesis will result in ‘with **Honors** Distinction in the major field.’
- (2) Completion of a research thesis will result in ‘with **Honors** Research Distinction in the major field.’

Summary of proposed changes

Current Arts Honors Program	Revised Arts Honors Program
Marketing and Structure: Honors students in the arts switch from ASC Honors to Arts Honors during freshman or sophomore year.	Marketing and Structure: Honors students in the arts are assigned to an Arts Honors advisor at freshman orientation and begin an Arts Honors track within ASC Honors.

Requirements: Specialized requirements enable students in the arts to fulfill an Honors contract while completing a rigorous major curriculum.	Requirements: The specialized requirements will not be modified. The language will change from units to credit hours (1 unit = 3 credit hours).
Departments and Schools: The following departments and schools are affiliated with Arts Honors: Department of Art, Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy, Department of Dance, Department of Design, Department of History of Art, Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts, and the School of Music.	Departments and Schools: Students with a major in the following departments and schools will follow the Arts Honors track: Department of Art, Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy, Department of Dance, Department of Design, Department of History of Art, Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts, and the School of Music.
Arts Honors Diploma Designation: ‘with Honors in the Arts’	Arts Honors Diploma Designation: ‘with Honors in the Arts and Sciences’
Arts Distinction Diploma Designation for Arts Honors: ‘with Distinction in the major field’	Arts Distinction Diploma Designation for Arts Honors: ‘with Honors Distinction in the major field’
Research Distinction Diploma Designation for Arts Honors: ‘with Research Distinction in the major field’	Research Distinction Diploma Designation for Arts Honors: ‘with Honors Research Distinction in the major field’

Sincerely,




Dana Renga (she/her)
Dean, Arts and Humanities
College of Arts and Sciences

Arts Honors Program Requirements (current language)

- 3.4 overall GPA
- 6 units of Honors experiences
 - 3 units of Honors experiences over the first 2 years.
 - For some majors in the Arts, this is difficult to achieve, due to limited scheduling opportunities in the GE, few Honors offerings in the major programs, and lockstep curriculum in the majors. The Arts standard allows students to defer 1 unit until the 3rd year if necessary, reflecting the individualistic, focused nature in the arts.
 - 3 units over the second 2 years
- Arts Honors Contract (fulfill 6 units of Honors experiences per an Honors contract):
 - Arts Honors contracts will be reviewed at the conclusion of each academic year. Students will be informed via Ohio State email of their continuance or non-continuance in the program.
 - Students in their sophomore year will submit an Arts Honors contract by the conclusion of finals week autumn semester.
 - Students who find they need to revise their contract may do so with the Contract Revision Form, which can be submitted to Arts Honors Program Manager, Ed Quinn.

Honors experiences:

- Honors course (1 Unit)
- Upper division course outside major (4000+) (1 Unit)
- Upper division elective course in major (1 Unit) for 1st and 2nd year students
- Graduate level course (1 Unit)
- Honors embedded course (1 Unit - maximum of 3 total units)
- Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity (1 Unit)
- Special Individual Study (1 Unit - maximum of 3 total units; includes study abroad course not required for the major, internship not required for the major)
- A minor (outside the major) (1 Unit)
- Second Major (2 Units)
- Students may petition for other courses/experiences to count. Most students' majors encourage or require a capstone or senior project, which can become a distinction project. Arts Honors students may also choose to complete creative theses or research theses.

Arts Honors Program Requirements (revised language)

- 3.4 overall GPA
- 18 credit hours of Honors experiences
 - 9 credit hours of Honors experiences over the first 2 years.
 - For some majors in the Arts, this is difficult to achieve, due to limited scheduling opportunities in the GE, few Honors offerings in the major programs, and lockstep curriculum in the majors. The Arts standard allows students to defer 3 credit hours until the 3rd year if necessary, reflecting the individualistic, focused nature in the arts.
 - 9 credit hours over the second 2 years
- Arts Honors Contract (fulfill 18 credit hours of Honors experiences per an Honors contract):
 - Arts Honors contracts will be reviewed at the conclusion of each academic year. Students will be informed via Ohio State email of their continuance or non-continuance in the program.
 - Students in their sophomore year will submit an Arts Honors contract by the conclusion of finals week autumn semester.
 - Students who find they need to revise their contract may do so with the Contract Revision Form, which can be submitted to Arts Honors Program Manager, Ed Quinn.

Honors experiences:

- Honors course
- Upper division course outside major (4000+)
- Upper division elective course in major for 1st and 2nd year students
- Graduate level course
- Honors embedded course (maximum of 9 credit hours)
- Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity
- Special Individual Study (maximum of 9 credit hours; includes study abroad course not required for the major, internship not required for the major)
- A minor (outside the major; maximum of 3 credit hours)
- Second Major (maximum of 6 credit hours)
- Students may petition for other courses/experiences to count. Most students' majors encourage or require a capstone or senior project, which can become a distinction project. Arts Honors students may also choose to complete creative theses or research theses.