

**From:** [Smith, Randy](#)  
**To:** [Humbel-Courtney, Julie E.](#); [Locascio, Pete](#)  
**Cc:** [Leite, Fabio](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Snyder, Anastasia](#); [Ahlqvist, Ola](#); [Jones, Norman](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#)  
**Subject:** Revision to Honors Program  
**Date:** Thursday, March 7, 2024 3:42:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Julie and Pete,

The proposal from the College of Education and Human Ecology to revise its Honors Program with new University Honors Program Standards, was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on March 6, 2024. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of internal review/approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next Annual Activities Report to the University Senate (July 2024).

The Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Fábio Leite (.11), or me.

Randy



**W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.**

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

University Square South, 15 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-5881 Office

[smith.70@osu.edu](mailto:smith.70@osu.edu)

**Assisted by:**

**Katie Reed**

Executive Assistant

(614) 292-5672

[reed.901@osu.edu](mailto:reed.901@osu.edu)



January 22, 2024

Dr. Randy Smith  
Vice Provost  
Office of Academic Affairs  
University Square South  
15 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43201

Dear Randy:

We are pleased to provide you with a proposal (attached) for a revision of the College of Education and Human Ecology (EHE) Honors Program Requirements.

On October 19, 2023, the EHE Curriculum Committee reviewed and unanimously approved this proposed revision to the EHE Honors Program. On December 7, 2023, the Honors & Scholars Faculty Advisory Committee, which is the oversight committee that reviews and approves all proposed honors courses and programs, also approved the proposal.

We specifically want to point out a few notable features in this proposal:

- The proposed changes to the EHE Honors program align with the University Honors Standards that were approved by the Honors and Scholars Faculty Advisory Committee in May 2023.
- The proposed requirements for the Honors Program in the College of Education and Human Ecology support involvement in the new General Education curriculum by encouraging the use of an ePortfolio.
- The proposed revisions require an Experiential Learning Project, maintaining the option of an Honors thesis while also expanding options for this Experiential Learning Project to include experiences that enhance career readiness, such as research culminating in a capstone, a community project, or an internship.
- The proposed revisions would raise the cumulative GPA requirement to 3.5 cumulative GPA.

We are excited to work with the College of Education and Human Ecology as they embark on their journey by providing their students with this Honors opportunity. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ola Ahlqvist  
Associate Vice Provost, Academic Enrichment  
Executive Director, University Honors & Scholars Center

Julie Humbel-Courtney  
Program Director, Honors

Cc: Donald Pope-Davis, Dean, Education and Human Ecology



October 19, 2023

Pete Locascio  
Executive Director of Undergraduate Education  
A100 PAES Building  
305 Annie & John Glenn Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Pete,

I am writing on behalf of the College of Education and Human Ecology's (EHE) Curriculum Committee to inform you that the proposal to revise EHE's Honors program was approved unanimously at the Curriculum Committee meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If there is any further support you need, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Aaron Bagent  
Curriculum Specialist  
Office of Undergraduate Education  
College of Education and Human Ecology

## Undergraduate Honors Program

### Proposal

College of Education and Human Ecology

October 6, 2024

#### **Proposal to update EHE Honors curriculum and requirements:**

To align with the new University Honors Program Standards, the College of Education and Human Ecology (EHE) proposes to update the EHE Honors program to require students to fulfill the following components:

- 1) Minimum of 18 credit hours of Honors-Quality courses
- 2) Completion of an Experiential Learning Project
- 3) 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher
- 4) Honors-specific section of EHE 1100 College Survey or included Honors module
- 5) Completion of EHE Honors e-portfolio by graduation

#### **Rationale:**

The Honors and Scholars Faculty Advisory Committee approved a new University Honors Standards in May 2023. College units will need to adopt the new Honors Standards within their own programs. The proposed changes to the EHE Honors program align with the University Honors Standards. EHE plans to implement the revised program beginning with students who first enroll in Ohio State University beginning Autumn Semester 2024.

Updating to the new University Honors Standards coincides with needed updates to the EHE Honors program, namely creating expanded Experiential Learning Project (ELP) options (detailed below). The expanded Experiential Learning Project learning outcomes and options align with EHE's updated Core Values: Innovation, Internationalization, Excellence, Justice, Diversity. ELP options give students creative opportunities to satisfy the learning outcomes in ways that are not exclusive to an Honors thesis. Expanded options, however, will require more structured touch points and developmental steps as students explore ways in which to satisfy their own ELP.

#### Experiential Learning Project Learning Outcomes:

1. Promote academic engagement. Through their ELP, students will plan and implement specific ways in which their experiences connect and enhance their academic knowledge and skills.
2. Ensure practical application. Students will apply what they learn through their courses to real world situations.
3. Encourage career readiness. Any ELP option requires thoughtful and intentional practice of career readiness skills (exposure to industry options, professional skillsets, self-reflection/strengths assessment).

4. Connect to communities. EHE Honors students must clearly demonstrate how their ELP impacts communities and the people within those communities.
5. Build outreach opportunities. Any ELP option results in a final “product” that students can utilize to showcase their work.

Other proposed updates are primarily to align with the new University Honors Standards: 18 credit hours of Honors-Quality courses (instead of six Honors courses) and the inclusion of an Honors-specific section of College Survey or Honors module. Similarly, EHE Honors students will be required to complete an Honors e-portfolio through PebblePad, detailing their progress in meeting Honors requirements. Honors-Quality course definitions are updated to encompass a wider range of courses, not solely H or E-designated courses, due to a limited amount of H/E courses offered outside of 1000-3000 level GE courses. Students will have more choice in determining their academic pathway while they progress toward degree completion.

Current requirements call for a 3.4 minimum cumulative GPA, however, the new program would raise that requirement to 3.5 cumulative GPA. Consistently, over half of all EHE undergraduate students maintain a 3.4 cumulative GPA or higher. Raising the GPA requirement to 3.5 further distinguishes EHE Honors students and aligns with the academic performance EHE expects from Honors students. Further, the 3.5 threshold guarantees that EHE Honors students will also qualify for the GPA requirement of University Latin Honors (3.5 or higher) at graduation.

Proposed changes will also provide opportunities for a more streamlined and administratively sound program. Students must actively engage both with their Honors pathway and support structures within the college, creating a more robust and meaningful EHE experience.

#### **Timeline:**

Students who first enroll in Ohio State University during Autumn Semester 2024 will be required to follow the new program. Current EHE Honors students will have the option to graduate under their existing Honors requirements or update to the new requirements. Current students who wish to continue following the existing requirements will also be able to complete one of the expanded Experiential Learning Project options by special approval from the college.

#### **Changes to existing EHE Honors requirements:**

Current EHE Honors students – 99 students as of AU23 semester – have somewhat varying sets of requirements. The most recent iteration of EHE Honors required:

- Six Honors Courses
- One research methods course
- Research Thesis
- 3.4 cumulative GPA

Due to COVID impacts and staffing shortages, the EHE Office of Undergraduate Education decided to grant more flexibility to EHE Honors students from AU22-AU23, allowing them to fulfill requirements

with six Honors-Quality courses and minimum 3.4 cumulative GPA. Students are still able to earn Honors Research Distinction with the completion of an Honors Thesis, which several have still done.

### **Student eligibility:**

There are three entrances into EHE Honors:

1. Admission by University Honors when admitted to the university
2. Transition from another Ohio State Honors program when major-changing into EHE
3. Entrance by application

Students who are not eligible through the first and second entrances will have the opportunity to apply to EHE Honors if they meet the following criteria:

- Current EHE undergraduate student (UEHE)
- 3.5 cumulative GPA at Ohio State University
- A plan for completing 18 Honors-Quality credit hours
- Experiential Learning Project proposal outline

Applications will be available twice per year, in Autumn Semester and Spring Semester. An EHE Honors Review Committee consisting of EHE staff and faculty will make final decisions on applications.

### **Experiential Learning Project (ELP):**

EHE Honors students will craft their Experiential Learning Project from the following options: Research Thesis, Research (non-thesis), Community Project, Internship

#### Experiential Learning Project Learning Outcomes:

1. Promote academic engagement. Through their ELP, students will plan and implement specific ways in which their experiences connect and enhance their academic knowledge and skills.
2. Ensure practical application. Students will apply what they learn through their courses to real world situations.
3. Practice career readiness. Any ELP option requires thoughtful and intentional practice of career readiness skills (exposure to industry options, professional skillsets, self-reflection/strengths assessment).
4. Connect to communities. EHE Honors students must clearly demonstrate how their ELP impacts communities and the people within those communities.
5. Build outreach opportunities. Any ELP option results in a final “product” that students can utilize to showcase their work.

#### Experiential Learning Project Requirements:

1. Must have faculty or professional supervision/guidance
2. Must last at least one semester or summer term

3. Project Plan approval required before beginning project
4. Must result in a final “product” to showcase project results and demonstrate satisfaction of each ELP learning outcome
5. Final “product” must be entered into a student’s Honors e-portfolio

### **Research Thesis**

In active collaboration with a faculty member, students may participate in research and complete an individually written undergraduate thesis.

- Requires a faculty advisor/mentor
- Attached to research credits within the department of the faculty advisor
- Includes a thesis defense and approval from a faculty committee
- Earn “Honors Research Distinction” at graduation

### **Research (without thesis)**

Students may actively participate in research with a faculty advisor/mentor that does not result in an undergraduate thesis. However, the research must result in a final product.

- Requires a faculty advisor/mentor
- Attached to research credits within the department of the faculty advisor
- Final “product” to present can be:
  - Co-author or publication
  - Paper
  - Visual Presentation
- Earn “Honors” distinction at graduation

### **Community Project**

Intended to grant students a higher level of creativity in planning and implementing an individual service-learning project that meets the ELP learning outcomes and requirements. This may include work on or off campus and/or work with outside organizations.

- Faculty or professionally supervised
- Students will satisfy the following guidelines:
  - Practice partnership building with community stakeholders
  - Measure impact of work in meeting intended goals
  - Develop critical thinking skills
  - Focus on issues that impact specific communities
  - Identify connections to academic subjects
  - Develop leadership skills
- Final “product” to present can be:
  - Co-author or publication
  - Paper
  - Visual Presentation
  - Impact Report
  - Other, as determined by supervisor

## **Internship**

Students can satisfy the ELP learning outcomes through a professional internship for credit.

- Must be taken for academic credit at Ohio State University
- Must be in addition to any internship/field experience required within a student's primary major program requirements. However, the additional experience may take place within the same professional organization during a separate semester/term from the semester/term used for the primary major requirement.
- Must include a supervisor letter of recommendation at the completion of the internship
- Final "product" to present can be:
  - Visual Presentation
  - Impact Report of a significant and/or long-term work project
  - Other, as determined by supervisor

## **Honors-Quality Courses:**

Students must complete at least 18 credit hours that are deemed Honors-Quality prior to graduation from the following options:

- Honors (H-designated) or Honors Embedded (E-designated) courses
- Research methods courses
- 4000-level or higher courses outside of primary major program requirements (GE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Major, Minor, and electives are eligible)
- Research credits with faculty
- Independent Study credits outside of the primary major program with faculty
- Study Abroad credits (up to 9 credits)
- Graduate level courses (by permission)