

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Ahlqvist, Ola](#); [Humbel-Courtney, Julie](#); [Pintor, Lauren](#)
Cc: [Sutherland, Sue](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Haab, Timothy](#); [Osborne, Jeanne](#); [Christy, Ann](#); [Kress, Cathann](#)
Subject: Proposal to revise SENR's Honors Program
Date: Friday, November 8, 2024 9:06:34 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Julie, Lauren, and Ola:

The proposal from the University Honors and Scholars Center to revise the School of Environmental and Natural Resources' Honors program was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on November 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 2025).

The Office of the University Registrar will work you with 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 Sue Sutherland (.43), or me.

I wish you success with this important program development.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

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September 26, 2024

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

Dear Randy:

We are pleased to provide you with a proposal (attached) for a revision of the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) Honors Program Requirements.

In June 2024, the SENR Academic Affairs and Honors Committee reviewed and unanimously approved this proposed revision to the SENR Honors Program. On September 20, 2024 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:

- Requirement of 18 credit hours of honors or honors embedded coursework, eliminating the need for 4000 and 5000-level courses outside the major
- Requirement that these 18 credit hours include honors or honors embedded courses within the SENR core or major-supporting courses to provide an "SENR Honors experience"
- Expansion of options for the Experiential Learning Project to increase program accessibility
- Requirement of compilation of an Honors-enhanced ePortfolio, aligning with University Honors standards
- Continuation of ENR 1100H (SENR Honors Survey) in alignment with new Honors standards

We are excited to work with the College of Engineering 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: Cathann Kress, Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



June 10, 2024

Dear Jeanne,

We are pleased to submit a revision of the School of Environment and Natural Resources Honors Program requirements for your review and endorsement. The SENR Academic Affairs and Honors Committee reviewed and unanimously approved the revision of the program.

The revised SENR Honors program maintains the breadth, depth and rigor of SENR's program, but now adjusts the requirements to align with the University Honors Standards that were approved by the Honors and Scholars Faculty Advisory Council in May 2023. Specifically, the revised program will:

- Require 18 credit hours of honors or honors embedded coursework, eliminating the need for 4000 and 5000-level courses outside the major.
- Require that these 18 credit hours include honors or honors embedded courses within the SENR core or major-supporting courses to provide an "SENR Honors experience."
- Expand options for the Experiential Learning Project to increase program accessibility.
- Require completion of an Honors-enhanced ePortfolio, aligning with University Honors standards.
- Continue to offer ENR 1100H (SENR Honors Survey) in alignment with new Honors standards.

The program revisions will enhance the management of SENR's expanding honors program by standardizing the honors coursework for students graduating with either Honors or Honors Research Distinction. Since the 2019 update that introduced both graduation options, the program has grown from an average of 30 to 76 students by the end of the 2023-24 academic year. Previously, students pursuing Honors Research Distinction developed a personalized Honors Program of Study in consultation with their faculty advisor and the SENR Honors Committee. It was observed that these students were generally completing the same coursework as Honors students. By formalizing this requirement, the management of the growing program will be more efficient.

As part of this proposal, I have also included a handout of our current honors program requirements and a copy of the new university honors standards. Thank you for taking the time to review and consider the revision to the SENR Honors Program. Please let me know if there are any questions I can answer.



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Best,

Lauren M. Pintor

Dr. Lauren Pintor
Associate Director of Undergraduate Education
Chair of SENR's Academic Affairs & Honors Committees

SENR Honors Program Requirements

General Honors Requirements: To graduate with Honors or Honors Research Distinction in one of the majors within the School of Environment and Natural Resources, students must:

- Maintain a cumulative 3.4 GPA and a 3.5 GPA within their major coursework.
- Complete either the Thesis (Honors Research Distinction) or Honors Curriculum (Honors) requirements.

*Students who did not start at OSU in Honors can enroll after completion of one semester (15 credit hours) in ENR if: 1) they have a 3.4 GPA (Honors Research Distinction & Honors), and 2) have obtained a commitment from a faculty research advisor (Honors Research Distinction).

Honors Research Distinction (Thesis Option)

Requirements to graduate with *Honors Research Distinction* include:

- Complete an honors contract with their faculty research advisor to ensure that all parties have an agreed upon understanding of the proposed plan to complete a research thesis for a given graduation deadline.
- Conduct, write and defend a research thesis under the direction of a faculty advisor.
- Complete an individualized study plan (e.g. Honors Program of Study) that includes 6 credits of ENR 4999H.

Honors Curriculum (Non-Thesis Option):

Requirements to graduate with *Honors Distinction* include:

- Completion of 6 honors or upper division courses (4000-level or above) by the end of the 3rd year. At least half of courses taken must be honors courses. 4000-level & above courses already being used to fulfill major requirements cannot fulfill this requirement.
- Completion of ENR 1500: Career Development & Success.
- Completion of *one* of the following options:
 - Two approved graduate level classes (6000-level and above)
 - Completion of a registered internship credit (ENR 4191). Internship credit that is already being used to fulfill major requirements cannot count towards this option.
 - Completion of 6 credits of ENR 4998 (faculty-directed undergraduate research).
 - *EEDS Majors Only:* 6 credits of AEDECON 4193 (faculty-directed individual studies).



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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SENR Honors Program Requirements

HONORS COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

- 1) A minimum of 18 credit hours of Honors coursework including:
 - Honors courses (H)
 - Honors-embedded coursework (E)
- 2) All ENR core courses, and ENR Major Supporting Courses must be Honors or Honors-Embedded where available (these can overlap with GE courses).
 - a. Existing: 3300E, 2501E, 3500H
 - b. In current development: ENR 2300E, ENR 3000H/3001H, ENR 3200E
- 3) If students choose an Honors Research Thesis to complete their Honors Project requirement, then they must also complete ENR 4890H and earn a passing grade.
- 4) Students must complete an Honors enhanced ePortfolio.
- 5) Students must complete the ENR 1100H (SENR Honors Survey) with a passing grade.
- 6) Students must complete an Honors Project.
 - If choose Honors Research Thesis, then must complete ENR 4890H: Honors Colloquium and earn a passing grade.

HONORS PROJECT REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

1. Honors research thesis (If students choose this option, they will also graduate with Honors Research Distinction).
 - a. If students choose this option they must also: 1) complete ENR 4890H (Honors Colloquium) and earn a passing grade), 2) enroll and complete in 6-credits of ENR 4999H and earn a passing grade.
 - b. Student must also complete an honors contract with their faculty research advisor to ensure that all have agreed upon understanding of the proposed plan to complete a research thesis for a given graduation deadline.
 - c. Conduct, write and defend a research thesis under the direction of a faculty advisor.
2. Six credit hours from one or a combination of the following:
 - a. Service-learning experience (S coursework)
 - b. Research experience (4998 coursework)
 - c. Internship (3191/2191, 3191/4191)
 - d. Global education experience coursework.
 - e. Approved graduate-level coursework (6000-level or above)

PROPOSED – EFFECTIVE AU24

(Note: Experiences **MUST** relate and/or contribute to a common goal to make one complete Honors Project. Must submit Statement of Connectivity. Experiences cannot both/all happen during the same semester.)