University Honors Program

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honors@isu.edu

Overview

As the only Honors Degree granting institution in Idaho, the University Honors Program (UHP) at Idaho State University is an academic program for students who aspire to a more engaging and enriching collegiate experience. The program synthesizes the idea of a structured learning community within an interdisciplinary curriculum. Each class is fashioned into small cohorts and led by extremely dedicated and passionate professors who devote themselves to the development of their students.

Goals

1. Interdisciplinary Scholarship – the ability to integrate knowledge to express well-constructed insight and originality of thought through multidisciplinary courses and methodologies.
2. Intellectual and Creative Engagement – using the appropriate methodology and theoretical framework that will include design, synthesis, and interdisciplinary research.
3. Citizen Scholar – addressing real-world problems and finding ethical solutions, a process that culminates in reflective civic engagement, respect for diversity, and service-oriented action.

The University Honors Program offers opportunities for broader, deeper, and more complex learning experiences for students through interdisciplinary, theme-driven course sequences. Courses are designed for students who are motivated to develop their critical and creative thinking in a more personalized atmosphere than may be expected in typical courses. These courses are offered in small class sizes (25 maximum enrollment), deal with broad and/or interdisciplinary issues, and confront some aspect of the human condition.

The University Honors Program is bigger than academics alone. The University Honors Program (UHP) offers students a living/learning community, leadership and civic engagement opportunities, individualized advising, undergraduate research, a group of committed scholars, and a community that values and recognizes the whole person. Please check www.isu.edu/honors for additional information.

The University Honors Program curriculum fulfills many of the General Education Requirements. Honors sections of courses are offered on a rotating basis and are dependent on departmental approval.

Admission

Admission to the University Honors Program (UHP) is competitive. Please check http://www.isu.edu/honors for admission requirements.

Transfer students from honors programs at other institutions are welcome to apply to the University Honors Program, and honors credits will be evaluated. Students who wish to enter the program in their sophomore or junior years should consult with the Honors Program Director and/or Coordinator.

Student Progress

Students admitted to the Honors Program are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.2. Students must show evidence of continuous progress toward their degrees. Students dropping below the 3.2 requirement have one probationary semester to raise the GPA before facing dismissal from the program.

Graduation from the University Honors Program

Students have two primary Honors curriculum paths depending upon the course selections and curriculum decisions made by individual students. Students may complete either an Honors Distinction or an Honors Degree. The Honors Distinction requires 19 Honors credits completed during a Bachelor’s or Associate’s coursework. The Distinction is awarded at the completion of the Bachelor’s degree. The Honors Degree requires 32 Honors credits and includes an Honors thesis/project. The Honors Degree is noted on the student’s diploma, transcript, and at commencement.

Requirements for Distinction in the University Honors Program

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<td>HONS 3391</td>
<td>Honors Seminar</td>
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Requirements for Degree in the University Honors Program

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<td>HONS 3391</td>
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<td>or HONS 4493</td>
<td>Introduction to Honors Thesis</td>
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<td>Defense of Honors Thesis</td>
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Interdisciplinary Seminars

University Honors students take at least one Honors Seminar (HONS 3391), and students seeking an Honors degree must take two Honors Seminars. These seminars seek to introduce a specialty topic in a creative manner. Instructors are challenged to teach a topic in their field of expertise in a way that makes the
material understandable from a wide range of majors. In general, at least two Honors Seminars will be offered each semester.

**Honors Contract Courses**

Honors Contract courses are departmental courses offered under an “Honors Contract” between the student and instructor. An “Honors Contract” course requires that the student and instructor agree, on a case-by-case basis, to a set of requirements for the course. All Honors Contracts must be approved by the Honors Program Director. In general, any academic class can be contracted with the proper permission from the instructor and UHP Director.

**Honors Project or Thesis**

Each University Honors Degree student is required to complete an honors project or thesis at the senior level in the department of his or her major or minor. The capstone project (1-6 credits) requires the University Honors student to prepare a project proposal for review by a departmental Honors Advisor. The project could be a research-based senior thesis or another appropriate project. The completed project is presented in a public forum and defended before a committee comprised of the Honors Advisor within the major department, another faculty member in the department, and the director of the University Honors Program. Appropriate public venues for the presentation include but are not limited to: a departmental seminar, the Idaho State University Undergraduate Research Symposium, an honors regional or national conference, or a discipline specific conference.

**Honors Degrees**

Graduates of the University Honors Program who complete 32 honors credits will receive one of the following degrees:

- Honors Bachelor of Arts
- Honors Bachelor of Science
- Honors Bachelor of Business Administration
- Honors Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Honors Bachelor of Music
- Honors Bachelor of Music Education

**HONS Courses** (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/allcourses/hons)