University Honors Program

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honors@isu.edu

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. The four UHP goals are:

1. Providing a challenging and imaginative curriculum;
2. Preparing students for a post-graduate education through seminars, individual research, and one-to-one interaction with faculty;
3. Fostering a spirit of on-going inquiry and a love of learning; and
4. Engaging students in civic-minded projects and events.

The University Honors Program offers opportunities for broader, deeper, and more complex learning experiences for students through interdisciplinary, themedriven 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) by extremely dedicated faculty, 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 this year’s core curriculum themes and 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 3.25. Students must show evidence of continuous progress toward their degrees. Students dropping below the 3.25 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 and is noted on the student’s transcript.

The Honors Degree requires 32 Honors credits and includes an Honors thesis/project. The Honors Degree is noted on the student’s diploma and transcript.

Requirements for Distinction in the University Honors Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honors coursework</th>
<th>18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Honors coursework may include any combination of the following: H designated courses e.g., ECON 2202-H, CHEM 1111-H), Honors specific courses (e.g., HONS 1101, HONS 1102), and Honors Contract courses (see description below).</td>
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<tr>
<td>HONS 3391</td>
<td>Honors Seminar</td>
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Total Credits | 19 |

Requirements for Degree in the University Honors Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honors Coursework</th>
<th>23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Honors coursework may include any combination of the following: H designated courses e.g., MGT 3312-H, CHEM 3301-H), Honors specific courses (e.g., HONS 2220, HONS 3393), and Honors Contract courses (including Independent Problems (e.g., EE 4481) or Senior Thesis (e.g., BIOL 4493), also see description below).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Division Honors Coursework</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>HONS 3391</td>
<td>Honors Seminar (HONS 3391 must be taken twice.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HONS 4493</td>
<td>Honors Senior Thesis or Project</td>
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Total Credits | 32-34 |

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

Courses

HONS 1101 Honors Humanities I: 3 semester hours.
A writing-intensive interdisciplinary course examining relationships between the arts and letters from the Classical Age through the Enlightenment. Partially satisfies Objective 1 of the General Education Requirements. PREREQ: ENGL 1101 or ENGL 1101P with C- or better, or equivalent. F

HONS 1102 Honors Humanities II: 3 semester hours.
A writing-intensive interdisciplinary course examining relationships between the arts and letters from the nineteenth century to the present. Partially satisfies Objective 4 of the General Education Requirements. S

HONS 1103 Honors Social Science I: 3 semester hours.
A writing-intensive interdisciplinary course examining the relationships in the social sciences from the Classical Age through the Enlightenment. F

HONS 1104 Honors Social Science II: 3 semester hours.
A writing-intensive interdisciplinary course examining the relationships in the social sciences from the nineteenth century to the present. S

HONS 2220 Information Research Techniques: 1 semester hour.
Students develop strategies for recognizing, locating, and evaluating pertinent information and using it effectively in current and future research papers and/or in their field of endeavor. D

HONS 3391 Honors Seminar: 1 semester hour.
Exposes students to a range of critical and theoretical approaches within various disciplines in multiple seminars. Students formulate research problems and incorporate the results of their research into a seminar paper and/or oral presentation. May be repeated for up to 4 credits with different content. F, S

HONS 3393 Introduction to Honors Thesis: 1 semester hour.
Prepares junior-level students enrolled in the University Honors Program to develop, plan, and begin their Honors Thesis or Honors Project. Select a thesis or project topic, identify a thesis director, begin scholarship review for the project or thesis, and develop a timeline for completing the project or thesis. F

HONS 4493 Honors Senior Thesis or Project: 1-3 semester hours.
Supervised by a committee of at least two faculty members and approved by the University Honors Program Director. DEPT 4493H will be used when possible. May be repeated for up to 6 credits. PREREQ: Permission of Instructor and Honors Program Director. F, S