

Proposal to Restructure the University Honors Program

For Consideration by the Arts & Sciences College Assembly 11/18/05

(approved unanimously by the University Honors Advisory Board; previously considered by the Common Curriculum Committee and the A&S Council of Chairs)

The University Honors Program should be restructured to include one Honors course in each of the following eight areas:

Behavioral/social sciences, English, fine arts, history, mathematics, natural sciences, philosophy, and religious studies.

In addition, the full Honors Program will include a requirement for an original, independent senior project. An **orientation course** to assist students as they prepare to undertake this project will be required for **one credit P/F** in the semester preceding the actual execution of the **senior project**. The project itself will count for **two credit hours** with a letter grade. Each student would declare her or his intention to pursue a senior project at the end of the sophomore year.

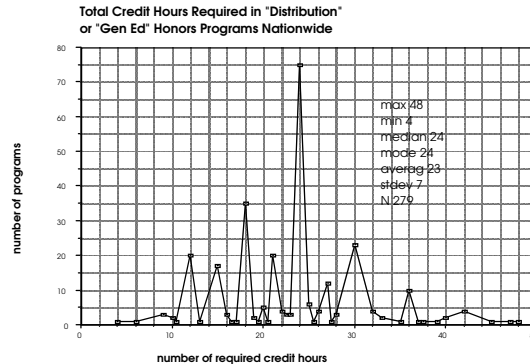
Therefore, this proposal would reduce the total required credit hours for the University Honors Program to 27.

NOTE: These are the minimum requirements. Honors students could elect to take more Honors courses to fulfill the rest of their Common Curriculum requirements.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

These changes would

- allow music majors, science majors, and transfers to complete the UHP
- allow departments to revise their UHP course offerings if they choose to do so
- allow exciting new interdisciplinary courses to be developed and offered
- remove or substantially reduce the AP penalty in English and history
- allow smaller sections of freshmen English and history courses to be offered
- enable consistent UHP requirements to be applied across colleges
- significantly reduce the reliance on contracted courses
- enable more Honors students to use their senior projects to apply for prestigious fellowships
- probably increase participation in the UHP by eligible students
- probably increase retention in the program (about 50% from 1st to 4th year)
- make our program more consistent with, and more competitive with, the vast majority of “distribution requirement” honors programs nationwide
- promote more flexibility with greater choice and more options for our highly talented, highly motivated students



Number Of Attempts: 63

Q1 Do you think the current University Honors Program serves your needs as an Honors student?

<u>Answers</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>
Yes, definitely.	20.6%	13
Probably.	38.1%	24
I don't know.	14.3%	9
Probably not.	14.3%	9
No, definitely not.	12.7%	8

Q3 If the UHP is not revised at all, do you expect to complete the entire, full University Honors Program in four years?

<u>Answers</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>
Yes, definitely.	41.3%	26
Probably.	22.2%	14
I don't know.	9.5%	6
Probably not.	11.1%	7
No, definitely not.	15.9%	10

Q5 Do you think the current University Honors Program serves students in all majors equally well?

<u>Answers</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>
Yes, definitely.	4.8%	3
Probably.	4.8%	3
I don't know.	9.5%	6
Probably not.	41.3%	26
No, definitely not.	39.7%	25

Q7 Do you think the University Honors Program should be revised?

<u>Answers</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>
Yes, definitely.	68.3%	43
Probably.	12.7%	8
I don't know.	6.3%	4
Probably not.	7.9%	5
No, definitely not.	4.8%	3

Q9 Do you think the proposal to restructure the University Honors Program should be implemented? (see posting on UHP Bb site under Program Materials)

<u>Answers</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>
Yes, definitely.	57.1%	36
Probably.	19.0%	12
I don't know.	7.9%	5
Probably not.	12.7%	8
No, definitely not.	3.2%	2

Q11 What is your expected year of graduation?

<u>Answers</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>
2005	17.5%	11
2006	23.8%	15
2007	25.4%	16
2008	33.3%	21