

Manual of the Indiana University Southeast Honors Program (IUSHP), Spring 2008

Philosophy

The Indiana University Southeast Honors Program (IUSHP) is designed to promote a rigorous but nurturing academic program for talented, motivated, and highly curious students. With the evolving goal of gaining a view of the interdependence between various academic disciplines in addressing eternal human questions, students will have the opportunity to take a variety of multidisciplinary courses. In an act of intellectual self-reliance, students will choose whether to design their own Honors project, participate in their academic major's departmental honors program, or conduct their own research projects as they complete the requirements of the IUSHP.

Goals

The IUSHP reflects the mutual commitment of both students and faculty to achieve the following goals:

- 1) To create an atmosphere of intellectual inquiry with an emphasis on scholarly interdependence and self-reliance;
- 2) To foster intellectual flexibility and creativity;
- 3) To encourage academic and personal camaraderie among all participants;
- 4) To nurture the intellectual and personal development of all participants;
- 5) To benefit the entire campus through mentorship, service learning and applied learning, campus and community citizenship, leadership, and outreach activities.

How are students admitted to the Honors Program?

The Honors Program has an application, available in paper form and on the internet at <http://www.ius.edu/AcadAffairs/honors.cfm>. Applicants need to complete that application, provide three references (reference forms are also available online), and prepare a brief essay introducing themselves to the Honors Program Director and Honors Council. Completed applications are placed on a secure site for review by the Director and Council members.

While excellent grades and test scores are positive indicators of an applicant's ability and motivation, they are not the only indicators. For example, a student who "caught fire" as a junior, but who had less-than-stellar grades at the beginning of her high school career will certainly not be overlooked as a candidate for admission to the Honors Program. Additionally, some people are poor test takers, despite being highly intelligent, motivated, and accomplished. The Director and Council are looking for potential, achievement, and evidence of interest in pursuing intellectual and personal growth, among other qualities.

Students who are interested in the Honors Program should feel free to contact the Director, Dr. Angela M. Salas, at amsalas@ius.edu and (812) 941-2196, or the Program Assistant at iushp@ius.edu and (812) 941-2587. Either the Director or Assistant will be pleased to meet with prospective and/or current honors students.

I've heard something about Chancellor's Honors Program Scholarships

The Honors Program administers a number of renewable and non-renewable Chancellor's Honors Program Scholarships each year. Every newly admitted and confirmed Honors Program student is considered for a scholarship. Returning HP students who did not receive a Chancellor's Honors Program Scholarship when they first entered may apply for a non-renewable scholarship in subsequent years.

How do students remain in the Honors Program?

Generally, an Honors student is required to:

- 1) Earn a 3.4 Cumulative GPA
- 2) Maintain an enrollment of at least 12 hours per semester (if full-time) and enroll in at least 6 hours per academic year (if part time)
- 3) Progress in the Honors Program each semester by:
 - a. Taking an Honors course and/or
 - b. Making progress on an Honors Project, be it departmental honors, research honors, applied project, or the self-designed honors program. Generally, three Honors courses over the course of every four semesters is the gold standard.
- 4) Check in with the Honors Program Director (in a scheduled meeting) at least once per semester
- 5) Make progress toward the degree by successfully completing a minimum of 75% of total attempted undergraduate coursework (i.e. all Indiana University Southeast coursework and/or any Metroversity coursework)
- 6) Demonstrate honesty and integrity as a member of the Indiana University Southeast community

Failure to uphold the above standards will result in probation from the Honors Program. Probation means that the student is in danger of being dismissed from the HP, losing preferred registration, and losing any scholarship aid she or he may be receiving from the Honors Program. Students on Probation will be expected to provide an academic improvement plan, and to meet with the Director monthly during the probation period, which will generally be one semester in length. Students may generally only be on Probation once, and are taken off Probation as soon as they've returned to solid academic standing.

HOWEVER: It is not the intention of the Honors Program Director or Honors Council that Honors students should avoid academic challenge in order to maintain a high grade point average. Sometimes difficult courses, in subjects outside our comfort zone, may be more educational (academically; ethically; emotionally) than courses in proven areas of success. Thus, students who think that they may not earn a high grade in a specific course should see the Director as soon as possible. If a pattern of student effort in this course can be established throughout the semester, the Director and Council will be likely to be sympathetic to the student's situation, and extend some latitude (or "mercy") to the student. We like risk-takers!

What **additional** obligations must be upheld by Chancellor's Honors Program Scholarship recipients?

Generally, Chancellor's Honors Program Scholarship recipients will be required to:

- 1) Earn a 3.45 Cumulative GPA
- 2) Serve as a mentor for at least one incoming Honors Program student during the course of their time in the Honors Program. This requirement is generally waived in the student's first year.

Honors Course Criteria

Honors courses are not designed to create more work for students, but to encourage academic inquiry. The Honors Council analyzes course proposals for features that distinguish them as suitable for the Indiana University Southeast Honors Program (IUSHP). Thus, Honors course proposals address some, if not all, of the following criteria:

- 1) Students will be challenged to develop in-depth understanding of the subject matter of the course;**
- 2) Students will have the opportunity to use primary source materials rather than relying solely upon textbooks;**
- 3) Students will have the opportunity to form learning communities during the course of the semester;**
- 4) Students will be given the opportunity to develop appropriate research skills;**
- 5) Students will be encouraged to appreciate the interdependency of various academic disciplines;**
- 6) Students will experience a variety of learning activities;**
- 7) Evaluation of student performance will be based on standards and methods designed to encourage self-reliance, creativity, critical thinking, and intellectual risk-taking;**
- 8) Evaluation of student performance will be based on standards and methods that require demonstrated competency and mastery of course objectives rather than relying solely upon the accumulation of points, percentages, and grades. Thus, honors faculty members are expected to require evidence that students understand and can make use of the concepts and skills developed in the course. Such evidence is seldom accumulated by relying solely upon quiz or test scores, since, as we all know, a student can brush up on a subject in time to take and pass a test, then leave the course with no lingering ability to call upon the skills supposedly measured by testing.**

How do Honors Courses fit into a degree program?

HON-H 103

HON-H 103 has been approved to fulfill certain general education requirements for Honors students. The course replaces ENG-W131 for Honors students and also fulfills the diversity requirement for general education. Please note that some programs have opted out of the diversity requirement. If you're unsure about the existence of a diversity requirement in your program, contact your regular academic advisor. In addition, one section of H 103 is typically offered as a first year seminar during the fall semester.

HON-H 104

HON-H 104 has been approved to fulfill certain general education requirements for Honors students. The course replaces SPCH-S 121 for Honors students and also fulfills the critical thinking requirement for general education. Please note that some programs have opted out of the critical thinking requirement. If you're unsure about the existence of a critical thinking requirement in your program, contact your regular academic advisor.

Other Honors Courses

Other Honors courses, including H 306, H 307, and the 400-level courses do not count toward general education requirements. Honors students are encouraged to use these Honors classes to fulfill elective credit requirements in their major.

How do I know if I'm on the right track?

Indiana University Southeast Honors Program Matrix of Performance Options and Advising Checklist

Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies:	Performance Options		
University Honors Minor Tier I Core Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-12 credit hours • May satisfy some general education requirements • May satisfy FYS requirements 	FY 104 Honors 103 First Year Seminar GenEd: Written Communication and Diversity	H103 Common Intellectual Experience I GenEd: Written Communication and Diversity	H104 Common Intellectual Experience II GeEd: Speech Communication and Critical Thinking
	H306 Honors Seminar in the Humanities and Social Sciences	H307 Honors Seminar Outside the Humanities and Social Sciences	Honors Project: May be research-based, applied, or service-based
University Honors Scholar Tier II Core Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-12 credit hours • Honors Track (1-6 cr.) 	H306 Honors Seminar in the Humanities and Social Sciences	H307 Honors Seminar Outside the Humanities and Social Sciences	Honors Project: The culmination of work done in any of the 3 tracks (below)
	Discipline-Based Honors Track	Honors Research Minor Track	Individualized Honors Track
University Honors Fellow Tier I Core Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-12 credit hours • May satisfy some general education requirements • May satisfy FYS requirements • Tier II Core Requirements • 7-12 credit hours • Honors Track (1-6 cr.) 	FY 104 Honors 103 First Year Seminar	H103 Common Intellectual Experience I	H104 Common Intellectual Experience II
	H306 Honors Seminar in the Humanities and Social Sciences	H307 Honors Seminar Outside the Humanities and Social Sciences	Honors Project: The culmination of work done in any of the 3 tracks (below)
	Discipline-Based Honors Track	Honors Research Minor Track	Individualized Honors Track

Presentation/Portfolio Options (For Tier I & II)	Presentation of Research at a Brown Bag Session	Public Performance or Display (Music, Theater, or Visual Art)	Develop an Electronic Portfolio: Projects will be archived in electronic portfolios
	Presentation of Research at the IUS Student Conference	Presentation of Research at a Honors Conference	Presentation of Research at a Discipline-Based Conference

Honors Project Proposals

The following format should be used when planning to do work toward the Honors Research Minor or Individualized Honors Track. All proposals must be reviewed and approved by the Honors Program Director, who will pass them to the Honors Council for their impressions.

Procedure: Student should submit a complete research proposal of no more than six (6) double-spaced, typed pages written with the educated lay reader in mind. The proposal should include a title and the following elements clearly labeled:

1. Statement regarding the significance of the project; explain why it is important and what difference the results will make.
2. **In the case of research projects:** Statement of hypothesis, research question, or creative objective in a form appropriate to the discipline in question.
3. Detailed statement of methods and plan of work, including a timetable. Provide appropriate research risk documentation if relevant.
4. Statement of the applicant's qualifications and training to carry out the project.
5. Name of faculty mentor. This person is not necessarily the Honors Program Director or an Honors faculty member. Students should seek the assistance of a faculty member with expertise in the field in which they are working, whether or not that person is currently affiliated with the Honors Program.
6. A signed and sealed letter of support from the faculty mentor evaluating the student's ability to carry it out in a timely manner and indicating what role the mentor will play.

*Please note that a limited number of Undergraduate Research Fellowships are available each semester through the Office of Academic Affairs. More information is available on their website: <http://www.ius.edu/acadaffairs/studentresearch.cfm>

**Any project that involves human subjects must be approved through the Office of Academic Affairs. For more information on research compliance, visit their website: <http://www.ius.edu/acadaffairs/humansubjects.cfm>