

11-17-2023

DOC 2007-04 (amended) Revision to University Honors Program

University of Dayton. Student Academic Policies Committee

PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE: Revision to University Honors Program

SUBMITTED BY: Student Academic Policies Committee

DATE: September 26, 2008
Revised November 17, 2023

ACTION: Legislative Concurrence

REFERENCE: [DOC 2007-04: A New Vision for the University of Dayton's Honors Program, Senate Constitution](#) II.B.1.b and II.B.3

RATIONALE:

In September 2023, Acting Director of the University Honors Program (UHP) Prof. Sam Dorf approached the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate with a UHP proposal. Senate approval of the UHP proposal would codify current practice in the UHP and approve the addition of one sentence under I. (highlighted in yellow). ECAS sent the proposal to the Student Academic Policies Committee to review in order to determine whether further review of the proposal was needed before it was returned to ECAS, who would subsequently vote to send the proposal to the Senate floor for a vote. Over two meetings, SAPC discussed the proposal, the updates it includes since DOC 2007-04, and the aforementioned additional sentence. SAPC voted 9-0 in favor of not needing to review the proposal further before returning it to ECAS.

The University Honors Program (UHP) was founded over 40 years ago. Since then, the program has adapted and changed with the times. In 2017, 2018 and 2020 a number of changes to admissions criteria were made in consultation with ECAS. For clarity and ease of reference, the UHP requests that the current procedures replace the out-of-date 2007 document, and future changes receive formal approval by the Academic Senate through Legislative Concurrence.

The following proposal reflects current UHP practice since summer 2020, with one change from the current policy that reflects Enrollment Management and UHP working together and provides some flexibility to ensure enrollment stays within the program's capacity.

PROPOSAL:

I. Entering the Honors Program

A student may enter the Honors Program in several ways:

- An incoming first-year student is automatically invited to the University Honors Program if they meet certain criteria outlined below. Membership is voluntary and can be accepted or declined at the time of initial registration or at any time prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Enrollment Management in consultation with the UHP will make final determination on admission criteria based on capacity. Minimum criteria are as follows:
 - A 3.8 High School GPA or top 10% of high school class, and a 29 ACT or 1340 SAT.
 - Without SAT or ACT test scores, a student with a High School GPA of 3.8 or higher may be considered for admission.
- By earning a cumulative UD GPA of 3.8 or higher by the end of the first semester as a full-time student, a first-year student is welcome to join the Honors Program.
- By earning a cumulative UD GPA of 3.7 or higher by the end of the first year as a full-time student, a rising sophomore is welcome to join the Honors Program.
- As a transfer student entering UD after one to two years at another institution with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher, a student may apply directly to the University Honors Program. Entrance into the Program and transferring Honors credits will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

II. Maintaining Membership

To remain in the Honors Program and be eligible for its benefits, an Honors student who entered their first year must:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.6
- Earn 6 Honors credits by the completion of 60 credit hours.
- Earn 9 Honors credits by the completion of 75 credit hours.
- Earn 12 Honors credits by the completion of 90 credit hours.
- Earn the minimum Honors credits required by the chosen diploma option by graduation.
- Exhibit responsible and respectful behavior, including academic honesty and a record free of disciplinary issues that cause concern to the University community.

Students who enter the Honors Program after their first semester should consult with the office to determine the minimum number of credits they need to earn to remain in good standing.

III. Earning Honors Credit

- Honors students average roughly one Honors-designated course per semester. Students should consult with the University Honors Program Policies and Procedures on counting Honors Courses.
- Students in the Core Program earn a designated number of Honors credits for completing the Core sequence of courses.
- Students have opportunities to earn a limited number of Honors credits for taking graduate-level courses.
- To earn Honors credit for an Honors course, students must earn a "B" or better.

IV. Honors Diploma Options

- Honors Diploma Option 1: Courses-Only
 - Earn at least 18 Honors credits (six Honors courses)
- Honors Diploma Option 2: Thesis
 - Complete a 6-credit hour Honors thesis
 - Earn at least 12 Honors credits (four Honors courses)
- Honors with Distinction Diploma
 - Complete a 6-credit hour Honors thesis
 - Earn at least 18 Honors credits (Six Honors courses)

V. Access to Benefits of the University Honors Program

An Honors student may experience a probationary period when most Honors benefits are suspended:

- An Honors student with fewer than 50 credit hours as a first-year student and with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 but less than 3.6 will automatically be placed on a one-year probationary period. Reinstatement occurs if the student raises their cumulative GPA to a minimum of 3.6 by the end of the student's sophomore year.
- An Honors student who is currently taking or who has completed Honors thesis research credit hours but whose cumulative GPAs has fallen below 3.6 can maintain probationary Honors Program membership providing that it is not the semester of graduation, and providing that the student still has the possibility of meeting all the requirements to graduate with either the Honors or Honors with Distinction diploma.

- A student who does not continue to meet the requirements of the Honors Program will lose membership and access to all benefits.

VI. Implementation

The above membership criteria are in effect for students entering UD beginning in Fall 2024. This policy replaces previous Honors Policies including but not limited to DOC 2007-04.