

Honors proposed curriculum changes – revised 1.27.19

Tabled 12.6.18; Discussed 1.23.19, committee agreed to circulate by email for further discussion and vote; Revised 1.27.19

Proposed Change to Curriculum Requirements

University Honors Minor

A student who completes an Emory Lindquist Honors Scholar **track** AND an **Interdisciplinary** Honors track or **Departmental Honors track** receives a University Honors minor and the distinction “University Honors” on the diploma granted by the students’ primary college. **A student must complete 3 unduplicated credits (credits not used toward general education or toward the student’s major requirements) in a minor program of study.**

Rationale for Proposed Changes:

University Honors Minor

1. This proposal removes the stipulation that a student may count only 3 credits of coursework used toward the major toward the University Honors Minor.

University policy requires a student to complete 3 unduplicated credits in a minor program of study.

The stipulation that a University Honors student may apply only 3 credits from the major toward the minor is negatively affecting students who seek greater depth or breadth of study in the major. For example, business majors who want to use more than one management course or a management and an economics course toward requirements for the University Honors minor may not.

At universities across the country, Honors is intended to be a way for students to navigate university and college requirements, to deepen or broaden their work in general education and in the major not to be a stand-alone program of study entirely distinct from general education or the major. We expect students to use honors courses and the “honors option agreement” to extend their knowledge in their major area of study and better prepare for competitive graduate or professional schools or careers.

Note: One of the closest models to our curriculum exists at the University of Massachusetts Commonwealth Honors College (a much larger college comprised of 3,700 students). UMass offers a foundational set of honors courses and the option to pursue two paths to earn University Honors – multidisciplinary honors or departmental honors. The founding faculty also looked at James Madison University and the University of Houston for models of curricula that offer interdisciplinary minors.

2. A change to the number of credits allowed to be used toward the University Honors Minor also changes the way in which departmental honors track requirements are counted. A student who completes the departmental honors track and the current Emory Lindquist Honors Scholar track has successfully completed general studies and advanced

scholarship in Honors. With this proposed change, a student must take 3 additional credits beyond general education or major requirements to earn both University Honors and departmental honors.

The initial rationale for *not* allowing more than 3 credits used toward a student's major to count toward University Honors was that this would result in two diploma-level distinctions – departmental honors (or honors in the major) and University Honors.

This has had the effect of excluding departmental honors students from the college. Departmental honors was incorporated into the Emory Lindquist Honors program in the past and typically is part of Honors College curricula across the country. We aim to incorporate departmental honors students more clearly into the Honors College and are working to adjust our processes to include them. This curriculum proposal would incorporate the departmental honors path into the curriculum structure.

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Transfer Credits Policy

Students who transfer to WSU having completed all or part of an honors program at another university, college or community college should speak to the Honors College advisor about having those credits counted toward an honors distinction at WSU.

A student may transfer coursework from another Honors program or college to count for up to 50% of requirements for any Wichita State University Honors track.

Rationale for Proposed Changes

Transfer Credits Policy

This policy is based on a previous articulation agreement with Hutchinson Community College that allowed any student to transfer 12 credits of lower division courses from HCC to fulfill 50% of the requirements for the Emory Lindquist Honors Program distinction.

Proposed Change to Curriculum Requirements

Interdisciplinary Honors Track

A student who completes a 12-credit Honors Track earns a transcript designation.

Interdisciplinary Honors tracks are theme-based, interdisciplinary courses of study primarily in upper-division coursework. Students may choose from several tracks. The common requirements for an Interdisciplinary Honors Track are:

- **Core Course (3 credit hours):** This course **or courses** will provide perspectives from across academic disciplines to help students understand the complexities, connections, and context of the subject matter for the track.
- **Directed Elective Courses (6-8 credit hours):** **Students take two courses related to the track area.**
- **Applied Learning (1-3 credit hours):** **Each student is expected to apply** the knowledge and skills learned in the track courses to real-world problems and work environments and to reflect on the applied learning experience. Students are required to complete **at least 1 academic credit hour** through non-classroom activities (**applied learning**) such as internships, international travel, and community service. **Some tracks require 3 credit hours of applied learning.**

Rationale for Proposed Changes

Students have proposed challenging tracks with different ways of distributing credit that still meet track objectives: theme-based, interdisciplinary courses of study primarily in upper-division coursework that include a substantial applied learning component. Allowing a range of credits in electives and applied learning will align curriculum with these proposals.