

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Honors College

Date Submitted: 11/24/07

Proposed Effective Date: 9/1/08

	name	email	phone	dept
dept chair	Anna M. Shields	ashields@umbc.edu	5-3720	Honors
contact	same			

Specifics (see instructions):

In order to bring our Honors College requirements more in line with national standards, we are sponsoring the creation of more Honors seminars at the 200 and 300 level. This change is also designed to encourage more students from highly structured majors to continue in the Honors College by providing them with more seminar options within their disciplines, particularly in science and engineering. In response to these developments, we would like to alter our requirements slightly and to clarify the language throughout. The three significant requirement changes are underlined and discussed in "Rationales."

Current Regs	Proposed Regs
HONR 100: Honors Forum in the fall semester of the first year. (The course is recommended but not required for students who join the Honors College with more than 30 credits, excluding advance placement credits. it is required for all other new students.)	HONR 100: Honors Forum in the fall semester of the first year. Required for all new students except those entering with more than 30 credits beyond advanced placement credits.
Two courses from the following: First Year Seminar (FYS) in fall or spring of the first year; HONR 200 (Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar); HONR 210 (Great Books Seminar I); HONR 211 (Great Books Seminar II); HONR 220 (Honors Leadership Seminar); HONR 290 (Seminar in Thinking Critically across Disciplines and Contexts); HUM 121H (Introduction to the study of the Humanities II); or PUB 150H (Public Affairs Scholars Seminar).	<u>Three Honors Seminars, at least one of which must be at the 300 level.</u> Courses that may be substituted for these in the fall or spring of the first year are First-year Seminars (FYS); HUM 121H; and PUB 150H.
One HONR 300 (General Honors Seminar course).	[combined in the above]
English Composition (ENGL 100 or 100H) or, if advanced placement credit is granted, another expository writing course approved by the Honors College. Approved courses include ENGL 226, 281, 291, 303, 326, 380, 382, 383, 387, 391, 392, 393, 394, and 395.	One English Composition course. If advanced credit exempts a student from ENGL 100, another expository writing course approved by the Honors College may be substituted.
Completion of at least three additional Honors courses (minimum 3 credits each).	[same]
Completion of an Applied Learning Experience as described below.	[same]

One Honors course must be completed in three of the following four areas: arts/humanities, social sciences, mathematics/natural sciences and language/culture.	<u>Three of the Honors courses must be taken in fields outside the major(s).</u>
Maintenance of a cumulative 3.25 GPA (assessed at the end of each academic year) until completion of degree.	[same]
One Honors course per semester until 90 credits are earned (excluding AP credit) and certificate requirements are met.	<u>Two Honors courses per year until certificate requirements are met.</u>

Rationale (see instructions):

1. Seminar change: The Honors College Faculty Fellows program will create more seminars at both the 200- and 300-level for our students, and we should actively encourage Honors students to take these seminars. We will continue to accept FYS and the specialty scholar seminars as meeting one Honors course requirement.
2. Distribution requirement change: The current range of H-sections offered across campus and the range of Honors seminars to be offered through the Faculty Fellows program will go a long way towards creating academic breadth for students. Requiring three Honors courses outside the major will narrow their choices and still allow them to choose courses to complement, not duplicate, their majors. This change could be provisional, however, and we could plan to study the 2009 entering cohort for curricular breadth over a period of three years (by which time the certificate requirements are often met).
3. Course per semester/two per year change: Our current practice is to offer students a one-time waiver in a semester when he or she cannot fit an Honors course in. The practice of offering waivers is not in itself too burdensome; however, by allowing students to skip one semester and then double up in another without attaining a waiver gives them more scheduling flexibility and reduces the amount of paperwork needed to complete the certificate.

Impact on Current Students: In previous years, when the Honors College has implemented changes to the requirements, we have offered current students a one-time “opt-in” choice, and we would like to do so again if the changes are approved to begin in Fall 08. Given that our proposed changes increase rather than restrict the flexibility of the program, it is our expectation that many students would choose to continue under the new requirements. However, there is no reason that they would not be able to complete the certificate under the existing requirements.

