

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 0915F
Date of Senate Approval 12/03/15

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 4 (HON): **Change and clarification to the special topics course requirements in the Honors Program;**
Change Honors Special Topics to allow for 4-credit courses

Effective Date: Fall 2016

1. Delete: On page 171, item II under **Honors Program:**

II. Students must complete at least two, 3-credit-hour Special Topics Honors courses at the 300-level or higher (i.e. HON 373).

Add: On page 171, in place of deleted entry:

II. Students must complete at least two, 3- or 4-credit-hour Special Topics Honors courses at the 300-level or higher. Such courses may be designated by an Honors (HON) prefix or by a departmental prefix with Honors designation indicated in section number.

2. Delete: On page 172:

171-3, 271-3, 371-3, 471-3 Special Topics in Honors (1-3)

Add: On page 172, in place of deleted entry:

171-4, 271-4, 371-4, 471-4 Special Topics in Honors (1-4)

Impact Statement: These changes will have no impact on staffing needs or any other university resources. Neither will they negatively impact Honors students' requirements for receiving Distinction as a University Scholar. They merely make explicit the Honors Program's practice since 4-credit-hour Special Topics courses have begun to be taught in the Program.

Rationale: Beginning in Spring of 2015, Special Topics courses in the Honors Program have been redesignated so that the majority of them are listed under departmental prefixes. (This redesignation was done under the authority of the Associate Provost for Academic Administration and the Associate Provost and Dean of University Programs.) The redesignation has allowed the offering of 4-credit-hour Special Topics courses, something not done previously in the Program. This offering has added flexibility to the Honors Program's schedule. This offering, moreover, makes it easier for the Honors Director to recruit department faculty to teach in the Honors Program, given many departments' adoption of a predominantly 4-credit-hour model for major curricula.

The catalog changes proposed in this document do three things:

- a. They add flexibility to the old Special Topics course requirement for students seeking to graduate with Distinction as a University Scholar, making it neither more nor less difficult for students to meet the requirement.
- b. They clarify what is now meant by "Special Topics course in Honors."
- c. They give to the prefix "HON" the flexibility needed to offer 4-hour special topics courses, should this prefix ever be needed to offer such courses.