

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD0823F  
Date of Senate Approval 11/02/2023

-----  
Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**FWDC 3:** **Revise the Honors Program Description**  
[Faculty Handbook Section 11.2](#)

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Summary:** This document updates the Honors Program description in the handbook.

**Rationale:**

The description of the Honors Program is updated to include the following:

- The nomenclature for the program needs to be consistent. The program is called the “University Honors Program,” not the “University Scholars Honors Program.”
- Instead of recruiting “more able” students, the program seeks to recruit “motivated students with a demonstrated record of academic success.”
- The previous description did not include the fact that students can also be “Recognized as Honors Scholars.”
- Not all honors students conduct research, the capstone LA478 is focused on service learning.
- The University Honors Program and Undergraduate Research Program no longer oversee scholarships for incoming, first-year students. The selection of incoming, first-year students to the Honors Program falls under the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.
- The process to select faculty teaching Honors courses is updated. The Director will work with Department Chairs, Program Directors, and the Honors Program Advisory Committee in the selection of HON courses and faculty. It is important for the Director to work directly with Chairs and Program Directors to structure HON offerings that are feasible within the course structure of each department and informed by the needs for the HON program.

**Revise Sections 11.2 as follows:**

**11.2 University Honors Program**

The University ~~Scholars~~ Honors Program at UNC Asheville, established in the fall of 1985, is designed to recruit ~~more able and motivated students with a demonstrated record of academic success~~, foster an environment in which the intellectual potential of students can flourish, and retain a core group of students

committed to liberal learning by means of enhanced advising, mentoring, experiential learning, counseling and other support services. The program is based on honors course work as well as co-curricular activities that "extend learning beyond the classroom." Course work emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of liberal learning, the historical and cultural context of knowledge, and the value of understanding the foundations of contemporary ideas. The University Honors Program encourages independent study and collaborative research, particularly through the close interaction among students and faculty in a capstone senior research experience. Co-curricular activities might include meetings with visiting scholars, discussions following selected cultural events, field experiences, service learning, study abroad, and other travel opportunities.

The University Honors Program Curriculum consists of Honors sections of the liberal arts general education core curriculum, interdisciplinary special topics seminars, study abroad opportunities independent study reading and research, and a senior capstone experience colloquium where students present their senior research. Students successfully completing all requirements, including 21 hours of coursework in the Honors Program, graduate with "with Distinction as a University Honors Scholar" (see current UNC Asheville catalog for requirements), which is recorded on their transcript. Students who complete 11 hours of Honors coursework are eligible for "Recognition as an Honors Scholar," which will not be recorded on their transcript.

~~The Honors Program, in conjunction with the Undergraduate Research Program, sponsors the Undergraduate Fellowships and Scholars Awards. These scholarships include special program components as well as financial support. Competition is open to entering first-time freshmen based on high school GPA, SAT scores, and an essay. Contact the Admissions Office of Admission for more information.~~

Transfer students and continuing UNC Asheville students may participate in the Honors Program by application, following self-nomination or nomination by the Director or a faculty member invitation, application, or faculty nomination. Contact the Director of the University Honors Program Director (honors@unca.edu) for more information on eligibility and applications.

The University Honors Program is administered by a Director, appointed by the Provost and VCAA from among the faculty, in consultation with the Honors Advisory Committee and an Honors Student Advisory Committee. Academic policies for the program are referred from the Director and the Advisory Committee to the APC of the Faculty Senate. Faculty teaching Honors courses are selected by the Director and the Advisory Committee, and the Director of the University Honors Program works with Department Chairs, Program Directors, and the Honors Program Advisory Committee to select Honors courses for the upcoming semester based on program needs. More information is available at <https://www.unca.edu/academics/honors-program/>.