

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD4324S

Date of Senate Approval 04/04/2024

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 36 (HON): Reinstatement HON 492;
Update the requirements and description of the Honors Program,
codifying Recognition as an Honors Scholar**

Effective Date: Fall 2024

1. Add: On page 187, new course, **HON 492, Honors Senior Colloquium:**

492 Honors Senior Colloquium (2)

Built upon collective experience in the Liberal Arts Core coursework, the Honors Senior Colloquium will bring together students from all disciplines for reflection on the nature of the Humanities and the role of a liberal arts education in the 21st century. Students will complete reflections, presentations, and group discussions as a summative experience of their liberal arts core curriculum and their high impact practice experience(s). Students must demonstrate mastery of aspects of interdisciplinary learning and public discourse, effective and concise writing, and public speaking. Students will participate in an Honors Program Showcase, which might include on-or-off campus presentations. Prerequisites: Senior standing and completion of HUM 124, 214, HUM 324 or LA 378; pre-or corequisite: HUM 414 or LA 478. Students are strongly encouraged to take the Honors section of these courses. See program director.

Impact: HON 492 will serve as an additional capstone course opportunity for students receiving Distinction as a University Honors Scholar. This change will allow some flexibility in case the Humanities Director and Honors Director have difficulty recruiting faculty to teach HON LA478. There will be an impact to the Honors Director workload, as they will serve as the faculty of record for the new HON 492, Honors Senior Colloquium. The Director of the Honors Program will have at most 2 contact hours each spring (1 section of the course). A further potential negative impact is that students opting to take HON 492 will go from a 4-credit capstone to a 2-credit capstone course. This will require students to carefully plan their Honors credits as they approach senior year. To balance this, there are now (as of Fall '23) more HON courses in the first-year program (FYS, LANG 120). A typical honors program progression will be HON sections of FYS, LANG 120, HUM 124, 214, 324, 414/LA478 and HON 492. This would equal at least 25 hours. See the [course selection guide on the honors website for reference](#).

Information for New Course Proposal

1. *Does the course fulfill a major requirement, LAC requirement, or requirement for another department? If the course fulfills a major requirement, will it be a required course, an additional choice for a course group, or an option for unspecified required hours in the major?*
This course fulfills the capstone requirement for the Honors Program, which leads to graduation with Distinction as a University Honors Scholar.
2. *Information about the course's:*
 - a) *Student Learning Objectives*
Centered on collective experience in the Liberal Arts Core coursework, the Honors Senior Colloquium will bring together students from all disciplines for reflection on the nature of the Humanities and the role of a liberal arts education in the 21st century. Students will complete reflections, readings, presentations, and group discussions and must demonstrate mastery of some aspect of interdisciplinary learning and public discourse.
 - b) *anticipated class size*
This course will be limited to 15 students
 - c) *the amount of scheduled class time, e.g. 2.5 hrs/wk*
The course will meet for 2 hours every other week
 - d) *instructional format (lecture, lab, seminar, independent, research, internship, studio, etc.),*
Seminar format
 - e) *any specialized space or material needs*
The course will meet in the Laurel Forum
 - f) *contact hours and faculty workload hours.*
2 contact hours per section per semester. A maximum of 4 contact hours per semester.
3. *Information about the number of faculty in the department who will/can teach the proposed course.*
The Director of the Honors Program will be the instructor of record.
4. *Information about when and how often the course will be offered. (This is of particular concern for new courses and those that are required for the major.)*
The course will be offered every spring semester
5. *For new courses or changes to offering patterns, information about how the addition or change affects the ability of the department to deliver its existing curriculum and meet its commitments to the LAC.*
There is a net positive impact on the LAC faculty and program, there is a net neutral impact in terms of time on the Director of the Honors Program. There is a negative impact on the Director's home department. The Director remains a faculty member in their home department, but will now have a 2 contact hour teaching load each spring in HON. This could reduce the load in the home department by up to 4 contact hours per semester.
6. *Is the course part of the UNC Common Numbering System (CNS)? If so, what is the impact of the change to the UNC CNS? If it is a new course, should it be added to the UNC CNS system? The UNC System Office requires all proposed changes to the UNC CNS be submitted by February 15th for the next academic year.*
No, it is not part of the CNS, and should not be added to the CNS.

Rationale: This is a proposal to reinstate a course that used to be the capstone course in the Honors Program prior to 2009. Honors students should have a chance to reflect upon their LAC coursework prior to graduation. This can be accomplished in a colloquium format, led by the Honors Director, who can guide students in synthesizing what they have learned as well as practice key skills such as public discourse and public speaking. This new colloquium provides the opportunity for Honors students to think critically, together, about the nature of a liberal arts education and the value of shared foundational knowledge.

In 2008, HON 492 Honors Senior Colloquium (2 credit hrs.) was deleted from the Catalog (2008 APC 28). As far as the Director is aware, there is no clear reason for having HON students required to take a separate section of LA 478 as the capstone experience. The previous rationale was that there was a desire to “focus on civic engagement and service-learning” (2008 APC 28). Honors LA 478 has traditionally been a service-learning course (now called community engaged), but HON students will have ample opportunity to engage in community activities as part of other Honors Program activities, such as service trips. Further, finding faculty every semester who can both teach a section of LA 478 and bring community connections that can be leveraged to meet the high expectations of a community engaged and Honors course is challenging and a burden on the Director of the Humanities Program and the Director of the Honors Program. This burden was not anticipated in 2008 (2008 APC 28). Finally, the Director of the Honors Program and the 2023-24 Honors Advisory Council now believe that the revitalized Honors Program should have some “ownership” and control of the senior capstone experience that defines the Honors experience, not the Humanities Program. The Honors Program Director should be the instructor of record for an Honors capstone experience, because the Director should be in the position to evaluate student completion of the capstone experience.

2. Delete: On page 186, the second paragraph under the heading, **Honors Program:**

Students who successfully complete the University Honors Program will graduate with Distinction as a University Honors Scholar. Students must complete at least 21 hours of Honors credit with a minimum overall GPA of 3.25, and a 3.50 GPA in Honors courses.

As part of the 21 hours, students must complete an Honors section of LA 478. Centered on civic engagement and culminating in a service-learning experience, LA 478 will bring together students from several disciplines for research, discussion and a group project. Students planning to enroll in an Honors section of LA 478 must meet with the Honors Program director no later than the end of preregistration of the semester prior to the one in which the student plans to enroll in the course.

Add: On page 186, in place of deleted entry:

Students who successfully complete the University Honors Program will graduate with Distinction as a University Honors Scholar, which is recorded on the student’s transcript. Students must complete at least 21 hours of Honors credit with a minimum overall GPA of 3.25, and a 3.50 GPA in Honors courses to be eligible for Distinction as a University Honors Scholar.

As part of the 21 hours, students must complete either HON LA478 or HON 492, Honors Senior Colloquium. Centered on collective experience in the Liberal Arts Core coursework, the Honors capstone will bring together students from all disciplines for reflection on the nature of the Humanities and the role of a liberal arts education in the 21st century. Students will complete reflections, presentations, and group discussions and must demonstrate mastery of some aspect of interdisciplinary learning and public discourse.

Honors Program students who are unable to complete the entire Honors Program, but who complete at least 11 hours of Honors coursework including either HON LA478 or HON 492 and maintain the required GPA minimums are eligible for Recognition as an Honors Scholar. Although this isn’t recorded on the transcript, it may be included on resumes and

curriculum vitae. This track is particularly designed to remove barriers to participation in Honors by transfer students.

3. Delete: On page 63, the entry under **University Honors Program:**

The University Honors Program is an enrichment program for bright, eager and active students. Students formally admitted to the Honors Program are eligible to enroll in special sections of the Liberal Arts Core requirements and Honors courses including First-Year Seminars and Special Topics courses taught at all undergraduate levels. The Honors Program sponsors co-curricular activities including special speakers, films, trips, cultural events and socials. Students are invited to meet with distinguished campus guests. Honors students are expected to be active members of the program, involving themselves in the co-curricular activities including service learning as well as social gatherings, and to maintain outstanding grades.

Add: On page 63, in place of deleted entry:

The University Honors Program at UNC Asheville was established in the Fall of 1985 and is designed to recruit 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, 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, collaborative research, study abroad, and a capstone 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 Core curriculum, interdisciplinary special topics seminars, study abroad opportunities, and a senior capstone experience. Students successfully completing all requirements, including 21 hours of coursework in the Honors Program, graduate with Distinction as a University Honors Scholar, which is recorded on their transcript. Honors Program students who complete 11 hours of Honors coursework including the Honors capstone are eligible for Recognition as an Honors Scholar, which isn't recorded on their transcript, but may be included on resumes and curriculum vitae.

Impact: This change will update these sections of the catalog to broaden the description and include the requirements for the program.

Rationale: The text in the catalog is outdated and needs to be brought into alignment with the Faculty Handbook and the new focus of the Honors Program. For example, Honors Program students are not necessarily more "bright and eager" than other students and it is inappropriate to refer to them as such. The new paragraphs offer more detail and are better aligned with the new goals of the revitalized Honors Program and match the language being added to the Faculty Handbook.

The addition of a "Recognition as an Honors Scholar" is something that a previous Director implemented internally as a way to recognize transfer students who typically do not have enough time on campus to complete the full 21 hours. It is extremely important to the current Director that transfer students find themselves to be full-fledged members of the Honors Program, and that there is a way for them to earn recognition at commencement. Therefore, the Honors Program is requesting to codify this internal recognition in the course catalog so that it no longer feels like a "secret" track. Transfer students need to know that they have a way to participate fully as well as earn recognition. Students earning Recognition as an Honors Scholar will be eligible to wear a green cord at Commencement.