

Honors Program at UAF

For Faculty Senate, Oct 6, 2014

The program

- In existence since 1982
- Program has not changed very much over the years
 - Honors Scholar – 27 credits Honors classes + capstone project/thesis
 - Honors Thesis Scholar – 12 credits Honors classes + capstone project/thesis
 - (designed primarily for transfer students)
 - International exchange experience is encouraged
 - Service work has been expected for a few years, but is not truly required
- Most of the honors courses are in the Core
- Very few upper division courses
- Students create contracts with individual professors to increase the depth/breadth/rigor of other classes to create Honors-level work
- Capstone does not have to be in the major discipline.
 - With the express permission of both the major discipline advisor and the honors advisor, a capstone/thesis may count as meeting both the major requirement and the honors requirement.

Participation in Fall 2014

273 students cohorted as Honors students in Banner

141 Female, 132 Male
62 Freshmen
47 Sophomores
62 Juniors
102 Seniors

Majority of majors are in the STEM

CNSM: 95 (45 biology)
ENGR: 66
CLA: 24 (English 7, justice 6)
School of Ed: 8
School of Management: 19

Honors sections taught, Fall 2014 (enrolled)

ACCT 261 (1)
ANTH 100X (8)
ART 200X (9)
CHEM 105 labs (28)
ECON 100X (15)
ENGL 213X (19)
ENGL 422 (3)
ES 346 (2)
GEOG 101X (3)
HONR 290 (20)

HONR 381 (5)
HONR 498 (4)
HONR 499 (1)
MATH 302 (1)
PHSY 211X (lab) (11)
PS 100X (2)
PS 101 (1)
PS 201 (1)
PS 300X (3)
PS 321 (3)

Honors Program changes, modifications

New Mission Statement

“The UAF Honors Program provides opportunities for students to pursue excellence in academic and personal development. We foster critical and independent thinking and help students become informed, responsible, and active citizens.”

Student Learning Outcomes

- Critical Thinking
- Breadth of educational experience
- Independent Scholarship

Revising Curriculum

Honors 1st year

- Honors reading seminar/first year experience
- ENGL 213X
- COMM 141X

Honor 2nd year

- Methods of Inquiry
- Interdisciplinary seminar
- Great books seminar

Enrichment experiences

- National or international exchange
- Service learning
- Leadership

Restructuring the advisory committees

Currently 2 committees:

- HSAC (Honors student advisory council); HFAC (Honors Faculty Advisory Council)

Revising the HFAC to include students, to create terms for the faculty and term limits, and to establish a permanent seat for Exchange programs.

- HSAC will remain, but will be charged with some specific responsibilities

Challenges

How do we create a program that has value?

How do retain and graduate students?

What do we do about the house?

Incentives for faculty, dept chairs, deans to support teaching in Honors.