

Proposal Date: 1/13/11

University College
Honors College
Proposal to Revise A Program
(Action Item)

Contact Person: Dr. Clay Motley, clay.motley@wku.edu, 745-2081

1. Identification of program:

- 1.1 Current program reference number: NA
- 1.2 Current program title: Honors College
- 1.3 Credit hours: 33

2. Identification of the proposed program changes:

The course HON 251: Citizen and Self will be taught for the first time in Fall '11. The Honors College proposes to make HON 251 a required course for all students enrolling in the Honors College as of Fall 2011 or after.

Currently, all Honors College students are required to earn three hours of Honors Colloquium credit (HON 300). HON 300 does not have any prerequisites and serves as a general interdisciplinary course for Honors students. We propose that HON 251 also satisfy the Honors Colloquium requirement for all Honors students. Students who are enrolled in the Honors College prior to Fall 2011 may elect to enroll in HON 251 to satisfy their Honors Colloquium requirement, but they are not required to take the course. Equally, students who enroll in the Honors College in Fall 2011 or after may enroll in an Honors Colloquium to earn upper-division Honors elective credit.

3. Detailed program description:

The Honors College has three distinct curricula: 33-hour Thesis Option, 33-Hour Non-Thesis Option, and 18-hour Honors in the Major. The tables below reflect the *current* Honors curricula.

Thesis Option		Non-Thesis Option	
General Education <i>*Must include at least one course from three of the six general education categories (A, B, C, D, E or F).</i>	9 hours	General Education <i>*Must include at least one course from three of the six general education categories (A, B, C, D, E or F).</i>	9 hours
Colloquia	3 hours	Colloquia	3 hours
Honors Elective (any level/major)	6 hours	Honors Elective (any level/major)	6 hours
Honors Upper-	6 hours	Honors Upper-	6 hours

Division Electives	3 hours	Division Electives	9 hours
Honors Upper-Division in Major	6 hours	Honors Upper-Division in Major	33 hours
Capstone Experience/Thesis	33 hours	Total Hours	
Total Hours			

The Honors in the Major curriculum will be unaffected by the proposed change, so it is not represented by a table.

The tables below reflect the Honors College curricula after the proposed changes concerning HON 251, which are detailed in Item 2. Students enrolling in the Honors College in the Fall 2011 term or after would be subject to the following curricula. The changes are in bold.

Thesis Option		Non-Thesis Option	
General Education <i>*Must include at least one course from three of the six general education categories (A, B, C, D, E or F).</i>	9 hours	General Education <i>*Must include at least one course from three of the six general education categories (A, B, C, D, E or F).</i>	9 hours
HON 251	3 hours	HON 251	3 hours
Honors Elective (any level/major)	6 hours	Honors Elective (any level/major)	6 hours
Honors Upper-Division Electives	6 hours	Honors Upper-Division Electives	6 hours
Honors Upper-Division in Major	3 hours	Honors Upper-Division in Major	9 hours
Capstone Experience/Thesis	6 hours	Total Hours	33 hours
Total Hours	33 hours		

Students enrolled in the Honors College prior to Fall 2011 would have the option to take HON 251 to satisfy their Honors Colloquium requirement. The Honors College will continue to offer Honors Colloquia (HON 300) for students enrolled in the Honors College prior to Fall 2011 who do not wish to enroll in HON 251. Honors in the Major students typically do not take Honors Colloquia; however, Honors Colloquia would satisfy three of their six required Honors elective Hours; therefore, an Honors in the major student could choose to enroll in HON 251 to satisfy this Honors elective requirement.

4. Rationale for the proposed program change:

The Honors College designed HON 251 specifically to serve as a “core course”—a lower-division course required of all Honors College students. As an interdisciplinary course, team taught primarily by Honors tenure-track faculty, consisting of a lecture session and small discussion sessions, HON 251 will provide a pedagogically unique experience for Honors students and will provide rigorous study and practice in civic agency, a subject important to the central mission of the Honors College. As the Honors College continues its transition into a mature college, rather than a program, it is important that the Honors College offers a distinct academic curriculum required of all its students that reflect its pedagogical and academic emphases. HON 251 helps provide this; therefore, this program revision will incorporate HON 251 as a central component of an Honors education for all Honors College students.

It is also logical that HON 251 replace the Honors Colloquium (HON 300) in the Honors College curricula. The Honors Colloquium was designed to offer interdisciplinary and pedagogically innovative courses to Honors Program students as a way to provide them a unique academic experience. With the creation of HON 251, this purpose is served even more fully. HON 300 does not have any prerequisites and is designed to be a non-specialized interdisciplinary course for Honors students at any academic level; therefore it is fitting that HON 251, a lower-division “core” course without prerequisites, satisfies the Honors Colloquium requirement. Colloquia will still be offered in various topics other than civic agency, and thus they will be of academic value to Honors College students and can still satisfy upper-division Honors elective requirements. However, with the implementation of HON 251, HON 300 will be a less-emphasized course.

Finally, the Honors College does not wish to increase its curriculum beyond 33 credit hours. By having HON 251 required of all incoming Honors students, and count for the Colloquium requirement, then the Honors curricula for incoming Honors students will still be 33 hours.

5. Proposed term for implementation and special provisions (if applicable): Fall 2011

6. Dates of prior committee approvals:

Honors Development Board:

1/14/11

University College Curriculum Committee

1/31/11

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

University Senate

Attachment: Program Inventory Form