

To: Katherine McCormick, Chair, University Senate Council

From: Phil Harling, Interim Dean, Lewis Honors College

Date: February 20, 2017

RE: Proposed Program Changes, Lewis Honors College

On December 9, 2016, the Honors Transition Committee issued their report in response to the April 4, 2016 charge from the Senate Academic and Organizational Structure Committee (SAOSC) to consider an appropriate curriculum for the Honors College – most notably, how best to expand from a 21-hour to a 30-hour curriculum. Having briefed the full Senate on the Transition Committee report on December 12, 2016, I am now putting the relevant recommendations into the form of a proposal to be vetted through the University approval system. This proposal was discussed and unanimously endorsed by the Lewis Honors College Faculty of Record on February 15, 2017. Attendees included Kristin Ashford (Nursing), Lisa Blue (Arts & Sciences), Jonathan Glixon (Fine Arts), Vanessa Jackson (Agriculture, Food, and Environment), and Jane Jensen (Education). Two members who were unable to attend the meeting were separately consulted, and expressed their approval – Scott Kelley (Business & Economics), and John Balk (Engineering). Two other members are currently on sabbatical – Susan Barron (Arts & Sciences) and Gail Hoyt (Business & Economics).

The proposed program changes are as follows:

Proposed changes to the Honors curriculum (from 21 to 30 credit hours)

The Honors Transition Committee agreed that while the current flexibility of the Honors curriculum is in some ways desirable, it lacks intentionality and is too much of a grab bag; it does not inculcate in students a common sense of what and whom we wish them to become. The Committee endorsed a series of curricular changes that would build the Honors curriculum from the current 21 to the proposed 30 credits in ways that promote intellectual depth and breadth while facilitating the common curricular experience that is absent from the current Honors program.

The specific proposals are as follows:

Current Curriculum

Proposed Curriculum

| Requirement | When | Credit Hrs | Requirement | When | Credit Hrs |
|---|---------------------------|------------|---|---------------------------|------------|
| WRD/CIS 112 (Suggested Only) | 1st Yr | 0 | WRD/CIS 112 (Required)* | 1st yr | 3 |
| Lower-level Honors courses (151, 152, 251, 252, or Dept Honors section) | 1st Yr | 6 | Lower-level Honors courses (HON 151, 152, 251, 252, or Dept Honors section) | 1st yr | 6 |
| | | 0 | Foundational Honors Seminar | within first 2 yrs | 3 |
| Upper-level Honors courses (HON 301, Dept Honors sections, course conversions, G-level courses) | 2nd-4th Yr | 6 | Upper-level Honors courses (HON 301, Dept Honors sections, course conversions, G-level courses) | 2nd-4th Yr | 6 |
| Honors Experiences (Edu Abroad, UG Research, Experiential Edu) | 2nd-4th Yr | 6 | Honors Experiences (Edu Abroad, UG Research, Experiential Edu) | 2nd-4th Yr | 6 |
| | | 0 | Directed Elective (HON 301 or Dept Honors course outside student's major) | 2nd-4th yr | 3 |
| Honors Capstone (typically in major) | 4th Yr | 3 | Honors Capstone (typically in major) | 4th Yr | 3 |
| | TOTAL CREDIT HOURS | 21 | | | 30 |

*Students meeting the Composition and Communication I and II Core area in part or in full through alternate means will have those credits applied to this Honors requirement in place of mandatory enrollment in CIS or WRD 112.

There was some concern expressed that this more credit-intensive Honors curriculum could in the abstract cause difficulties for students in more prescribed courses of study, such as Biology or Engineering. But this year's Honors freshmen entered UK with an average of 29 AP credits, which means the addition of a few more requirements should not pose a significant obstacle to participation in Honors. It will nevertheless remain important for many Honors requirements to continue to satisfy UK Core requirements, in order to

preserve the modicum of flexibility needed for top students in credit-intensive majors to continue to participate in the Honors program.

Let us now walk through the specific steps we propose in moving from a 21- to a 30-credit hour Honors curriculum.

Current: 21 credits

Plus 3 (to 24 credits): Make WRD 112/CIS 112 compulsory for all Honors students. WRD 112 and CIS 112 (Accelerated Composition and Communication) are accelerated versions of UK's standard 2-semester composition and communication sequence. They focus on integrated oral, written, and visual communication skill development and emphasize critical inquiry and research. (CIS 112 differs from WRD 112 in including a community-service obligation). Virtually all current Honors students already take one or the other of these accelerated courses. *All current students can be accommodated at current instructional staffing levels.* The Honors Transition Committee discussed various other ways of meeting the University's Composition and Communication requirement. Rather than creating a new Honors course that would duplicate the efforts of the appropriate relevant departments, it made sense to instead treat the existing accelerated courses as Honors sections themselves, and in doing so, creates no additional resource needs or discernibly changed the typical student enrollment in those courses.

Plus 3 (to 27 credits): Add a foundational seminar to be taken by all Honors students, preferably in their first year, and no later than the second semester of their 2nd year.

The purpose of this course (HON 101: The Individual and Society, sample syllabus attached) is to build a sense of intellectual community among students in the Lewis Honors College by engaging them in a shared academic experience. A 3-credit, 1-semester course taken preferably in the freshman and no later than their sophomore year, it will emphasize the development of analytical reading and writing skills. The course will be writing intensive, requiring students to produce 20-25 pages over the course of the semester and to complete at least one assignment that includes a formal revision process. The overarching theme of the course addresses the relationship of the individual to society, and students will explore how the main branches of academic inquiry—humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, arts and creativity—address this topic. The course theme is intentionally broad, inviting periodic revision by the course instructors. It is nevertheless desirable that there be a substantial (approximately 75%) degree of standardization in texts and assignments each semester, and through successive iterations of the course, for the sake of establishing an Honors College tradition and building community across grade levels. Course instructors will participate in an annual, late spring retreat during which they will collectively decide on the course's anchor texts and assignments. The course will be composed of seminars capped at 20 students. Each of the major units will be introduced by an evening lecture or presentation (recorded for those students unable to attend) by a prominent UK faculty member who will be asked to present a broad historical context and/or epistemological framework for subsequent student discussion within the relevant unit. These lectures or presentations will have the main branches of academic inquiry as their broad focus, and speakers will be encouraged to incorporate the broad course theme into their talks. Such events will afford students a more robust understanding of the specific texts associated with the subsequent course unit. Class meetings will integrate the lecture material, key texts, and other primary-source materials to promote discussion within small groups, the larger class cohort, and among students across the various course sections.

Plus 3 (to 30 Credits): Require 3 credits of directed elective (to count only as Honors credit – i.e. cannot count toward UK Core credit)

The Honors Transition Committee endorsed the idea that Lewis Honors College students should not only be developing depth in their major field of study, but also breadth of Honors-level course experience. This new directed elective requirement is intended to facilitate this breadth of study.

Honors students must choose at least three credit hours in HON 301 or departmental Honors sections outside their general discipline¹ of study, including declared majors or minors, at the time of course enrollment. Students must consult with their Honors advisor to secure permission for their intended directed elective prior to enrollment; advisors will guide students to consider courses significantly outside their field of study or in truly elective potential areas of academic growth. The use of course conversions for this requirement is discouraged, and will only be allowed when no appropriate Honors sections are available, and only with permission of the Director of Student Services or the Lewis Honors College Dean.

Colleges and departments should see this new requirement as an opportunity to develop Honors sections, especially for blended enrollments of high-performing non-Honors majors and Honors students pursuing this directed elective. Additionally, departments should consider developing new HON 301 courses to pilot new courses that may eventually be brought back to the home department of the offering faculty member.

Two-Year Abbreviated Honors Curriculum - 15 Hours

Any currently enrolled UK student or transfer applicant may apply at any time to the Lewis Honors College to complete the full thirty credit-hour curriculum. However, to reasonably accommodate transfer applicants and students approaching their final years at UK, Honors will offer a specialized admissions option. For students admitted as current or transfer students with 45 credit hours of earned and in-progress college credit (not to include AP, CLEP, IB, dual credit, or other credit hours earned before college matriculation) the Lewis Honors College makes the following adjusted curricular requirements to allow students to successfully complete the spirit of the Honors curriculum without creating obstacles to timely completion of degree.

1. Each Honors student must complete at least 12 hours in Honors courses.

Three Credit Hours

Students choose one from:

- HON 101 (Foundational Seminar)
- HON 151 (fulfills the Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities)
- HON 152 (fulfills the Intellectual Inquiry in Natural/Physical/Mathematical Sciences)
- HON 251 (fulfills the Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences)
- HON 252 (fulfills the Intellectual Inquiry in the Arts and Creativity)
- HON 301 (Subtitled Proseminar)

Three Credit Hours

Students choose from:

- HON 301: Subtitled Proseminar (if taking a second course, must be under a different subtitle)
- departmental Honors sections in existing UK courses
- a graduate course that meets the needs and interests of the student*

¹ Broadly classified as life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, fine arts, humanities, and social science and business.

- Proposed learning contract to convert an existing UK course to an individualized honors course with the oversight and approval of the faculty of record*

**College pre-approval required.*

Three Credit Hours

Directed Elective:

Honors students must choose at least three credit hours in HON 301 or departmental Honors sections outside their general discipline of study (broadly classified as life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, fine arts, humanities, and social science and business), including declared majors or minors, at the time of enrollment. Students must consult with their Honors advisor to secure permission for their directed elective prior to enrollment. The use of course conversions for this requirement is discouraged and will only be allowed when no appropriate Honors sections are available, and only with the permission of the Director of Student Services or the Dean of the Lewis Honors College.

Three Credit Hours

Senior Honors Capstone. Students choose from:

- HON 398
- College/department equivalent

2. Each Honors student must complete 3 hours of Honors Experiences.

Three Credit Hours

Students choose one or more experiences (may opt to do the same experience multiple times for a total of 3 credit hours):

- Education Abroad (HON 352, or other EA credit hours)
- Service-Learning or Community Outreach (HON 399, EXP 396, EXP 397, or equivalent course in the major)
- Undergraduate Research Experience (HON 395 or equivalent course in the major)

From: [Harling, Philip](#)
To: [Ett, Joanie M](#)
Subject: FW: CIS 112/WRD 112 as new Honors requirement
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 3:16:32 PM

And here is the other one. Thanks! Phil

From: Harling, Philip
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:45 PM
To: Spriggs, Amy D <amy.spriggs@uky.edu>
Subject: FW: CIS 112/WRD 112 as new Honors requirement

And here is the expression of unit consultation/support from Jeff Huber, Director of the School of Information Science in the College of Communication and Information.

Thanks so much!

Cheers, Phil

From: Huber, Jeffrey T
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:15 AM
To: Harling, Philip <harling@uky.edu>
Subject: RE: CIS 112/WRD 112 as new Honors requirement

Hi Phil,

I consulted with the ICR program faculty Monday, February 20, regarding the proposal to require all Honors students to take either CIS 112 or WRD 112. The ICR program faculty are supportive of this change as am I.

Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Thanks,
Jeff

From: Harling, Philip
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 12:11 PM
To: Huber, Jeffrey T <jeffrey.huber@uky.edu>
Subject: CIS 112/WRD 112 as new Honors requirement

Hi Jeff,

I've put together a detailed memorandum seeking approval for the Honors program changes that will take us from a 21-hour to a 30-hour curriculum. I hope soon to submit it to the Undergraduate Council.

As of course you know, one of these proposed program changes is to make it a requirement for all Honors students to take either CIS 112 or WRD 112 (see attached, with relevant language highlighted in yellow). Of course, as a Transition Committee member the language will look very familiar to you! As you know, this new requirement will require no additional instructional resources, as virtually all UK Honors students already take one course or the other, and Honors enrollment has leveled off.

Might you be able to send me a very brief letter within the next week or so indicating that you've consulted the ICR program faculty, and that this proposed requirement meets with your approval? Email consultation would be sufficient for this purpose, but it'll be important to indicate in your letter that the faculty has been consulted. I can then add your letter of support (as well as one from WRD) as an appendix to my memo.

Thanks so much for your help. I hope this finds you well!

Cheers, Phil

Phil Harling
Interim Dean, Lewis Honors College
Director, Gaines Center for the Humanities
University of Kentucky
Donovan Residence Hall
361 Huguelet Drive, room 2
Lexington, KY 40526-0079
Phone (859) 257-3111
Fax (859) 257-6428

February 28, 2017

Phil Harling
Interim Dean, Lewis Honors College

Dear Phil Harling

The Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies faculty voted on February 28, 2017 to support Honors requiring students to take WRD 112 or CIS WRD in either the Fall or Spring semesters of a given academic year.
Sincerely,



Jeff Rice
Chair, Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies

see blue.™

1353 Patterson Office Tower | Lexington, KY 40506-0027 | P: 859-218-2867 | F: 859-218-2999 | wrd.as.uky.edu/

An Equal Opportunity University