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Overview

THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Lake Superior State University's Honors Program provides a uniquely important dimension of the University's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

The University Honors Program seeks to create a community of scholars characterized by strong student and faculty interaction around a world of ideas.

This community fosters an approach to education that incorporates:

- The qualities of self-directed learning,
- A positive response to demanding work, and
- An appreciation of knowledge for its own sake.

Who's Who?

UNIVERSITY HONORS COUNCIL

The University Honors Council, chaired by the honors director, in concurrence with the provost's office, is responsible for formulating policy and procedures for the University Honors Program. The current Council includes:

-Provost/Executive Vice President	Dr. Anthony Blose (Ex Officio)
-Honors Program Director	Dr. Jason Swedene
-Honors Council	Dr. Sally Childs
	Dr. Jason Garvon
	Dr. Mark Terwilliger
	Dr. James Zukowski
-At least three selected student representatives*	President, Honors Student Organization
	Vice-President, Honors Student Organization
	Secretary, Honors Student Organization

*Student representatives are elected annually by the voting members of the Honors Student Organization and have full voting privileges on the Honors Council.

NAMES AND NUMBERS (2009-2010)

Honors Director

Dr. Jason Swedene
Office: Arts Center 223
Phone: 635-2122
E-mail: jswedene@lssu.edu

Honors Council

Dr. Sally Childs
Office: Norris Center, 108J
Phone: ext. 2610
E-mail: schilds@lssu.edu

Dr. Jason Garvon
Office: Crawford 226
Phone: (906) 635-2471
E-mail: jgarvon@lssu.edu

Dr. Mark Terwilliger
Office: CASET Hall, 206-G
Phone: 635-2058
E-mail: mterwilliger@lssu.edu

Dr. James Zukowski
Office: Library Building, 319
Phone: ext. 2115
E-mail: jzukowski@lssu.edu

Student Representatives

See website

Becoming an Honors Student

APPLYING BEFORE STARTING FRESHMAN YEAR

Becoming an Honors Student

Students are invited to become honors candidates as freshmen, based on a composite ACT of 27 and one or more of the following:

- 3.0 high school GPA
- Essay of application
- Personal interview
- Faculty recommendation

Honors candidates and other full-time bachelor's degree-seeking freshmen who achieve a GPA of 3.5 during their first two semesters at Lake Superior State University are then invited to apply for full admission to the Honors Program in the fall of their sophomore year.

To remain eligible for participation in the Honors Program, students must maintain at least a 3.3 GPA at the end of the sophomore year and a 3.4 GPA at the end of the junior year. However, only those students who achieve a 3.5 overall GPA¹, acquire 21 honors credits (including sophomore and junior seminars, and the senior honors thesis), and are active participants in the Honors Program receive an honors degree upon graduation.

LATE ADMISSION FORM

Students who wish to join the program after freshman year and meet the requirements must fill out the late admission form. The form is located on page 19 in the appendix of the handbook.

THE HONORS STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The Honors Student Organization is a duly recognized student group on campus. Its officers are elected on an annual basis by vote of the participating members of the University Honors Program. The elected positions include: president, vice-president, and secretary.

¹Exception: Honors students entering the program prior to Fall 2005 must achieve a 3.3 overall GPA by the time of graduation.

HONORS PROGRAM WEB PAGE

<http://www.lssu.edu/honors>

Located within the my.lssu.edu portal, this site serves as the primary conduit of information exchange between honors students and faculty. It includes a calendar of events, important documents such as honors contract guidelines and thesis information, e-mail links to other members, and photographs from honors events.

HONORS PROGRAM GROUPS PAGE

Students should login to their my.lssu.edu account and go to Groups Page link in the upper right hand corner. Choose Group Index, then Academic. Select Honors Program and choose to join group. Confirmation of membership will be e-mailed to each student.

Benefits of the Honors Program

- In addition to academic advisors, honors students are advised by the honors director regarding progress in the Honors Program.
- Fully admitted Honors Program students (not freshman candidates) are eligible for advanced scheduling privileges.
- Ontario Hall, sometimes called ‘The Honors House’ offers Honors students opportunities for supportive living and learning arrangements in one of the loveliest buildings on our historical campus. The house offers amenities such as appliances, a common room, an office area, and bathrooms on each floor.
- Honors students are invited to meet with guest speakers, participate in cultural functions in our international community, and attend state and national honors conferences.
- Upon graduation from the University Honors Program, the student receives a special diploma with the honors designation in her/his program of study and an honors medallion; an honors notation is also indicated on the student’s transcript for courses taken for honors credit.

THE DEGREE

Upon graduation from the Honors Program, the student will receive an honors degree in her/his program of study. The Honors Program designation is indicated on the student’s diploma and is *distinct* from graduating with honors (*cum laude*). Students graduating with honors (e.g., *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, *summa cum laude*) indicates having earned high grades within their

normal course of study. Earning the Honors Program degree, on the other hand, indicates successful completion of a more rigorous course of study *in addition to* the graduate's normal course of study.

EARNING THE HONORS DEGREE

To graduate with an honors degree, a student must be formally admitted to the University Honors Program, have successfully completed 21 honors credits, and have achieved an overall GPA of 3.5 or better. The 21 honors credit hours are to be distributed among the University's requirements for general education, the student's major, and the University Honors Program. Nine or more credits must be earned at the 300 level or higher. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in a course is required to receive honors credit.

SUBJECTS OUTSIDE ONE'S MAJOR

Studying classes outside of one's major allows students to go above and beyond the required classes for graduation. Honors students have an innate curiosity and are willing to take the extra step to learn about topics that they may not know anything about. It is a deliberate choice to step outside one's major and to learn about other schools of thought.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Relationship with Professors

Relationship with other Honors Students

Honors Curriculum

DEFINING THE HONORS CURRICULUM

The Honors Program student completes 21 credit hours of honors designated courses; about half of these designated credits may satisfy requirements for general education and/or the student's major. The remaining 9-10 credits meet the core requirements for the Honors Program—namely a sophomore and junior year seminar, as well as the completion of a senior thesis (in the student's major) for honors credit.

Honors classes are limited to 15-18 students and active participation of students is encouraged as essential to the development of a scholarly community. In addition, an interdisciplinary focus is promoted by the inclusion of students and faculty from all majors as well as by the course design

of the honors core curriculum. Excellence in teaching is emphasized in the selection of faculty members, as is a commitment to work with students in and out of the classroom setting.

EXAMPLE FOUR YEAR PLAN

Below is a sample four year Honors Program plan. All students should meet with the Honors director before scheduling to tailor their own individualized plan.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
1	(3) ENGL 110-H Honors English (1) HONR 101 First Year Seminar	(3) ENGL 215-H Honors Introduction to Literature and/or (3) COMM 101-H Honors Speech
2	(3) Honors General Education Requirement (3) COMM 101-H Honors Speech	(3) HONR 202 Honors Ideas Seminar* (3) ENGL 215-H Introduction to Literature
3	(3) HONR 302 Honors Contemporary Issues Seminar*	(3) Honors Option Contract (in major) 300 Level
4	(3) HONOR 401 Honors Thesis*-----Thesis Presentation*	

*Required credits
9 credits—300 level or above
A 3.0 or better is required to receive honors designation for an honors course.

TYPES OF HONORS OFFERINGS

Honors credits may be earned in three different ways:

1. Honors Program Seminars

a. HONR 101 Honors First Year Seminar

i. Explanation

- 1. An intensive reading and discussion seminar of selected topics from any discipline of special interest to first-year honors students. An interdisciplinary focus is encouraged as well as the inclusion of*

active learning strategies that promote self-directed learning. Class size is limited to 18 to promote student and faculty interaction.

2. HONR 101 courses, if different, may be repeated for a maximum of four credits.

ii. Prerequisites

1. Status as an honors candidate (freshman),
2. Fully admitted University Honors Program student, and/or
3. The permission of the honors director.

b. HONR 202 Honors Ideas Seminar

i. Explanation

1. HONR 202 is an interdisciplinary sophomore-level seminar for University Honors Program students. The course is designed to accommodate a range of specific topics; the particular topics, however, will investigate some aspect of the history of intellectual ideas, the nature of intellectual inquiry, and/or the construction of knowledge. The instructor serves as a facilitator in the seminar format which is intended to encourage student-director learning.

ii. Prerequisites

1. Formal admission to the University Honors Program and/or
2. Permission of the Honors Program director.

c. HONR 302 Honors Contemporary Issues Seminar

i. Explanation

1. HONR 302 is a junior-level seminar for University Honors Program students.
2. The course is designed to accommodate a range of special topics to be submitted by LSSU faculty; the topics may evolve out of an interdisciplinary subject matter, or may be a reconfiguration of a regular course, redesigned to meet the particular needs of Honors Program students. The role of the instructor, however, should be as a facilitator, working within the seminar format to encourage student-directed learning around a topic requiring intellectual rigor.

3. As this is a core requirement for all junior honors students, it is expected that a given course proposal would not require prerequisites beyond those for general education.

ii. Prerequisites

1. Formal admission to the University Honors Program,
2. Junior status, and/or
3. Permission of the Honors Program director. HONR 202 recommended.

d. HONR 401 Honors Thesis

i. Explanation

1. The HONR 401 paper presents a major written work based upon independent research or creative effort to be carried out under the supervision of a full-time faculty member. Research is intended to be widely interpreted and may include, but is not limited to, experiments, analysis of existing data, and a summary and integration of already completed but dispersed research.
2. Students will make a formal presentation of their findings to the Honors Council, the thesis supervisor, junior/senior Honors students, and others in the spring of their senior year.

ii. Prerequisites

1. 3.5 GPA, 15 honors credits, HONR 202 and HONR 302.
2. Students must present a fully developed proposal to the Honors Council for approval before enrolling in HONR 401 or its equivalent in their major.

2. Honors Sections of General Requirements

a. Regular Offerings

- i.* ENGL 110-H Honors English Composition I
- ii.* ENGL 111-H Honors English Composition II
- iii.* HUMN 251-H Humanities I
- iv.* COMM 101-H Honors Fundamentals of Speech Communication

b. Rotating Options (Sample Only)

- i.* SOCY 102-H Honors Social Problems
- ii.* ECON 208-H Honors Microeconomics
- iii.* ECON 209-H Honors Macroeconomics

iv. MUSC 200-H Honors Music

3. Honors Contract (Optional)

a. Explanation

- i. This is an individual contract between an honors student and a faculty member whereby provisions are made to obtain honors credit for a non-honors course, usually within the student's major.
- ii. The contract form, linked to the Honors Program Groups Page, is reviewed and approved by the Honors Council. Upon successful completion of the academic project and its documentation, the registrar is notified to indicate honors credit on the student's transcript.

b. Copy of Contract

- i. A copy of the contract is found on page 15-16 in the Appendix of this handbook.

Honors Thesis

WHAT IS AN HONORS THESIS?

The honors thesis is a requirement of the honors degree. The thesis presents a major written work of either research or creative effort. The work is to be carried out and completed under the supervision of a full-time LSSU faculty member who is knowledgeable in the area of the student's chosen topic.

Research is intended to be widely interpreted and may include, but is not limited to, experiments, analysis of existing data, and a summary and integration of already completed but dispersed research.

The creative thesis should include a written analysis of the creative work, describing the motivation for it, its relation to other work in the area, and its relation to the current direction of work in the area.

The major written work must be presented orally to the Honors Council and university community.

PREREQUISITES

- 3.5 GPA
- 15 Honors Credits
- HONR 202 and HONR 302 (6 credits) as part of the total 15

Those students who do not meet the prerequisites for HONR 401 may continue in the Honors Program (contingent upon eligibility) but will not graduate with an honors degree.

WHAT TO EXPECT

1. Fall Semester of Junior Year

In the fall semester of the junior year, a student in the Honors Program decides the area of interest in which he or she wants to complete his or her honors thesis. The student asks a faculty member in the discipline of interest to be his or her supervisor. Thereafter, the student, in conjunction with the faculty member, writes a letter of intent to begin an honors thesis, addressed to the chair of the Honors Council.

Students *may* select a qualified individual in their area of interest outside the University to act as an advisor on the thesis *in addition to* the supervisor who must be a full-time faculty member of the University. However, the University faculty member has authority over the direction of the thesis.

2. Spring Semester of Junior Year

In the spring semester of the junior, the honors student, under the direction of her/his faculty supervisor, writes an honors thesis proposal. The proposal should state the topic, explain the purpose of the topic within the discipline, provide a plan of the steps required to complete the thesis, refer to at least some of the previous work in the area, and addresses the relevance and consequence of the work.

a. Role of the Honors Council

The Honors Council will listen to the proposal presentation and grade by the Honors Council. They grade them on the following terms:

- i. Approved*
- ii. Approved with Modification (Slight alterations)*
- iii. Re-Submit (Denial)*

b. Proposal

- i. Due Date*

The Honors council should receive the written proposal by the end of the 10th week of the spring semester. Thereafter, the formal presentation of the proposal is scheduled by the chair of the Honors Council.

ii. *Expectations*

The proposal should demonstrate the following:

- Sufficient work has been accomplished such that the thesis is deemed viable.
- The scope of the project is significant, yet not so large that the student cannot be reasonably expected to complete it.
- The project, when completed will add to the understanding of a problem or issue judged to be of historical or contemporary significance in the field for which it was written.

The Honors Council may make suggestions to which the student and faculty member must agree before the proposal can be formally accepted.

iii. *Examples*

Examples of past proposals can be found on the LSSU website. Log into your my.lssu.edu account, click on “groups” in the upper right hand corner, then click ‘Honors Program’ and ‘Files.’ These will help define what the Honors Council is looking for in your proposal paper.

c. *Presentation*

The proposal is presented by the student at a meeting of the Honors Council at which the supervisor is in attendance. The Honors Council must have the opportunity to discuss the proposal with the student. The Honors Council shall then consider the merits of the proposal in a session with the thesis supervisor but without the student.

For the work to proceed, it must have the agreement of the majority of those Council members present at the Honors Council meeting.

i. *Expectations*

For the proposal, there are specific questions that *must* be answered, such as:

1. What are you doing?
2. Why are you doing this (What is it important?)
3. What will you accomplish?
4. How will you know that you have accomplished it?

You will also need to include a bibliography.

The honors coordinator and the honors council may decide that other questions should be added or subtracted within this list, but these are general areas that must be covered within a student’s proposal.

ii. *Examples*

Examples of past proposals can be found on the LSSU website. Log into your my.lssu.edu account, click on “groups” in the upper right hand corner,

then click 'Honors Program' and 'Files.' These will help define what the Honors Council is looking for in your proposal presentation.

3. Fall Semester of Senior Year

In the fall semester of the senior year, the student enrolls in HONR 401 (or its equivalent in his or her major) and completes the thesis under the direction of his or her supervisor. The student will meet with the Honors director the third Wednesday of October and November to discuss the progress of the thesis.

4. Spring Semester of Senior Year

In the Spring Semester of the senior year, the student makes a public presentation of the thesis. The thesis is presented after the supervisor determines that it is essentially complete.

a. Due Date

The presentation and theses are due the 10th week of the semester.

c. Presentation

The audience will include the Honors Council and all the junior and senior Honors Program students. Freshman and sophomore Honors Program students are encouraged to attend. The thesis supervisor may select additional individuals to attend.

d. Grading Process

Like the senior thesis proposal, the senior thesis will be graded by the Honors Council. They grade them on the following terms:

i. Approved

ii. Approved with Modification (Slight alterations)

iii. Re-Submit (Denial)

5. Expectations

Students in a discipline in which a thesis is required to earn a bachelors degree may follow a different time line. However, the requirements as set out above must be met. The time lines for such students must be agreed upon at the time the proposal is presented to the Honors Council.

The Honors Council may determine other exceptions.

The chair of the Honors Council informs the registrar that the thesis requirement for the honors degree has been satisfied.

6. Honors Thesis Credit

Once the thesis requirement is satisfied, students will receive credit for HONR 401. A student who earns credit for a course in a University department for a thesis will satisfy the requirements for HONOR 401 when his or her supervisor and the Honors Council deem the thesis to be of honors quality.

APPENDIX

These forms are intended to help you as you go through the Honors Program. They are meant to keep you informed, to keep on track, to encourage academic learning, as well as to inform you of social activities provided by the program.



Honors Option Contract

Pending approval of this proposal by the Honors Council, and the satisfactory completion of this agreement verified by the instructor, the course will be designated for honors credit on the student's transcript.

Part I: Information

Date: _____

To: Director, Lake Superior State University Honors Program

From: _____ Course Instructor

_____ Honors Student

Re: To Receive Honors Credit for _____
Course number and course name

Semester and Year: _____

(check here) Attached is a copy of the syllabus.

Part II: Content

In addition to the assignments indicated on the syllabus, _____ will
(attach a more detailed description, if necessary): Student name

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(Please continue contract application on the next page.)

Part III: Project Characterization and Professor Impressions

To the student: Please plan your project so that you will meet many or most of the below items. The Honors Council and your professor will hold you to a high standard for your contract. Please contact the Honors Director, Dr. Jason K. Swedene, if you have any questions.

To the professor: Thank you for agreeing to work with this honors student on his/her honors contract. Honors students, through contracts, are able to receive the valuable experiences of working more closely with their professors and attaining additional insights into the course material. Moreover, contracts allow students to exercise their research, writing, presentation, and creative abilities. These are all necessary virtues for successful honors senior thesis projects. The honors council wishes to gauge your impressions of the proposed project, as we consider approval of it. We do not require that all of the below be met. Please check all that apply:

- The material to be learned constitutes an important supplement (25-50%) of course content and workload.
- The scope of this project is appropriate for a top LSSU student.
- The project involves service to the university or the broader community.
- This project involves writing.
- This project involves data collection and analysis.
- The honors student will exercise critical thinking in carrying out this project.
- This project involves a study abroad experience.
- The project will be presented to the class.
- The project will be presented to the honors community.
- In my judgment, the successful completion of this contract will further prepare the student for his/her senior thesis.

BEFORE THE COURSE IS TAKEN:

AFTER THE COURSE IS TAKEN:

Course Instructor

Course Instructor

Honors Student

Honors Student

Proposal Approved by Honors Council:

Registrar Notified:

_____ (Date)

_____ (Date)



LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

HONORS PROGRAM

HONORS DEGREE AUDIT

NAME _____ ID _____

ENROLLED _____ GRADUATED _____

MAJOR _____ 2nd MAJOR/ MINOR _____

THESIS ADVISER _____

I. Honors courses (e.g., HONR 202-01)

HONR 101 (rec.)	_____	_____	_____
	credits	date	grade

HONR 202 (3,0) (req.)	_____	_____	_____
	credits	date	grade

HONR 302 (3,0) (req.)	_____	_____	_____
	credits	date	grade

HONR 401 (3-4,0) (req.)	_____	_____	_____
	credits	date	grade

_____	_____	_____	_____
Other	credits	date	grade

II. Honors Sections (e.g., ENGL 111-H16)

_____	_____	_____	_____
course	credits	date	grade

_____	_____	_____	_____
course	credits	date	grade

III. Honors Option Contracts

_____	_____	_____	_____
course	credits	date	grade

_____	_____	_____	_____
course	credits	date	grade

course credits date grade

course credits date grade

course credits date grade

course credits date grade

TOTAL HONORS CREDITS from:

I. Honors Courses: _____

II. Honors Sections: _____

III. Honors Option Contracts: _____

TOTAL: _____ (must be 21 or higher)

G.P.A.	Year	Fall	Spring	Cumulative
	1	_____	_____	_____
	2	_____	_____	_____
	3	_____	_____	_____
	4	_____	_____	_____
	5	_____	_____	_____

Dr. Jason K. Swedene, Director

Lake Superior State University Honors Program



LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Home Address: _____
Street

City State Zip code

Telephone: _____ (day) _____ (evening)

Primary email address: _____

Current status: A) High school senior B) College Student

Name of current high school / college: _____

City, State: _____

Current (cumulative) GPA: _____ ACT composite score: _____

Number of university credits, if applicable: _____

Date of (anticipated) enrollment at LSSU: _____

Scholarships accepted from LSSU: _____

Briefly describe why you seek admission to the University Honors Program:

Honors Check Sheet.....

Thesis Proposals

Name of Presenter _____

Date _____

Title of Proposal _____

Brief Summary Paragraph

Signature of Attendee _____ Date _____

Signature of Honors Chair _____ Date _____

Honors Check Sheet.....

Final Thesis Presentation

Name of Presenter _____

Date _____

Title of Presentation _____

Brief Summary Paragraph

Signature of Attendee _____ Date _____

Signature of Honors Chair _____ Date _____

Honors Check Sheet.....

Auxiliary Event Participation

Attend a minimum of one Honors Auxiliary function per academic year

Name of Function _____

Date _____

Brief Summary describing Event

Signature of Attendee _____ Date _____

Signature of Honors Chair _____ Date _____

Honors Check Sheet.....

Informal Session: Attend a minimum of one Informational Session per academic year

Name of Function _____

Date _____

Brief Summary describing Event

Signature of Attendee _____ Date _____

Signature of Honors Chair _____ Date _____

Possible Auxiliary Events

Dinners

Retreat

Conferences

Diversity Week

Pizza Lunch

Special Presentations

Open House

List and Brief Biography of Honors Council Faculty

HONORS COUNCIL FACULTY

Dr. Jason K. Swedene, Honors Director

Dr. Swedene graduated from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY in May of 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Philosophy. He then went on to get his Master of Arts and a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Buffalo in September of 1999, and April of 2002, respectively. He has taught at Lake Superior State University since 2002, and has served as Honors Director since 2006.

Dr. Sally A. Childs

Dr. Childs graduated with a PhD. from Ohio State University. She studied Adventure Programming and Therapeutic Recreation with cognates in Natural Resources and Counseling. She also developed and implemented a Wilderness Studies degree at Ohio State University. At LSSU, Dr. Childs is the coordinator and advisor for the Parks and Recreation degree and teaches the research sequence for students majoring in Recreation, the theory courses which focus on the utilization of the Out of Doors for Recreation purposes, and the Recreation and Leisure Philosophy course. She also serves as the primary instructor for Outdoor Pursuits courses.

Dr. Jason Garvon

Dr. Garvon was raised in Traverse City and graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology and a Masters degree in Biology in 2001. He then went on to Texas A&M-Kingsville/Texas A&M University for a PhD in Wildlife Science (2005). Dr. Garvon has been here since the Fall of 2005 and first taught Human Anatomy and Physiology, but now teaches General Biology II, Entomology, Animal Behavior, and Evolutionary Analysis.

Dr. Mark Terwilliger

Dr. Terwilliger began teaching computer science and mathematics at Lake Superior State University in 1990. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree from LSSU in 1988, earned a Master's from Michigan State University in 1990 and finished his doctorate in Computer Science from Western Michigan University in 2006. His research interests include wireless sensor networks, artificial intelligence, and parallel processing. He enjoys playing and coaching sports, as well as spending time with his family.

Dr. Jim Zukowski

Dr. Zukowski holds a Ph.D. in Critical and Cultural Studies from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Warren Wilson College. His areas of expertise include theory and teaching reading and writing as informed by cultural studies, literature, and composition. His poetry appears in Provincetown Arts, Northwest Review, Water-Stone Review, and is forthcoming in Nimrod.