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334.244.3357

705 Ida Belle Young Library Tower
I. Introduction

Since 1981 the University Honors Program (called the Scholars Program until 1997), has provided exceptional students at Auburn University at Montgomery an opportunity to develop their intellectual interests and skills beyond what is the normal experience of college students.

A. Honors Committee

Mark Benson College of Arts & Sciences
Rickey Best Library
Tara Beziat College of Education
Jasmine Boutdy Vice-President, Honors Assembly, ex-officio, non-voting
Joy Clark Office of the Provost, ex officio
Mahmoud Darrat College of Business
David Feltmate, co-chair College of Public Policy & Justice
Jackie Hall UHP Coordinator, ex officio, non-voting
Matthew Jordan, co-chair Director, Honors Program, ex officio, non-voting
Safa Kazi Secretary, Honors Assembly, ex officio, non-voting
Rachel Pate President, Honors Assembly, ex officio, non-voting
Li Qian College of Nursing & Health Sciences
Chelsea Ward Curriculum Committee, ex officio
Elizabeth Woodworth Director of Composition, ex officio

The University Honors Committee is a committee of the Faculty Council and consists of one faculty member from each College and the Library, and the Director of the Honors Program. In addition, the Provost or a person appointed by him or her, the Director of Composition, the WAC Program Coordinator, and the Chair of the Curriculum Committee serve ex officio; students are represented by the officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary) of the Honors Assembly. By Faculty Senate resolution, the Director serves as Co-chair, and another Co-chair is selected by the Rules Committee from among faculty membership on the Committee.

B. Mission and Goals

The Honors Program at AUM is open to qualified students in any major.

VISION: The University Honors Program will be the academic unit at Auburn University at Montgomery which

- engages highly motivated and high-achieving undergraduate students with majors in every College.
- is innovative in curriculum design and development and teaching excellence in diverse fields and methods.
- prepares students to thrive in a global community and to participate in a culture of inclusiveness.
- creates a community of faculty and students engaged in rigorous intellectual and service-learning activities.
graduates students who become engaged alumni with a life-long interest in and personal connection to AUM.

MISSION: Since 1981, the mission of the University Honors Program has been to serve highly motivated students from all five of Auburn Montgomery’s academic colleges by facilitating their participation in a diverse community that will prepare them intellectually and socially for the challenges and responsibilities of global citizenship in the twenty-first century.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: To accomplish that mission, the UHP enhances the experience of Honors Program students by engaging them in the development and demonstration of creative and critical thinking and teamwork and leadership in a context of global citizenship.

C. Admission

All entering freshmen may apply to participate in the UHP. Generally, honors students at AUM meet the following criteria:

- 26 or higher on the ACT
- 3.5 or higher high school GPA

Application is a two part process: 1) an essay in response to a prompt, and 2) an interview.¹

Transfer students and continuing AUM students who have a GPA at AUM of at least 3.4 may apply for admission to the UHP. These students will submit an essay (reviewed and rated by faculty) and participate in an interview conducted by current UHP students.

Transfer and continuing AUM applicants must have at least four semesters remaining at AUM at the time of their application.

¹ Faculty review and rate essays which are submitted with S-number identification only. Current UHP students conduct and rate interviews.
II. Requirements of Participation

Members of the UHP are expected to represent AUM, the University Honors Program, and the AUM Honors Assembly in a positive manner. Members of the Honors Assembly have use of the Honors Lounge and are expected to maintain it with a sense of pride and ownership.

To continue active designation in the UHP, students must maintain at least a 3.4 GPA and take at least one honors course each fall and spring semester they are enrolled at AUM. In addition, UHP students are expected to participate in the activities of the UHP, including a minimum of twelve hours of service each semester, and of the Honors Assembly. Students who do not remain in good standing either because of GPA or service requirements are given a semester of probation during which they may return to good standing. During probationary semesters, students must take at least one honors course and participate in UHP and service activities but are not eligible for travel or other support from the UHP.

Students who fail to return to good standing after a probationary semester are liable to be dismissed from the UHP. They may apply for readmission to the UHP at a later date. Such applications will be considered by the Faculty Senate Honors Committee, and the student will be notified by the UHP Director of the committee’s decision.

Students must earn a grade of “B” or better in any course taken for UHP credit.
III. UHP Curriculum

The following italicized description of the AUM honors curriculum can be found in the 2017—
2018 Undergraduate Catalog. Honors students have greater flexibility than non-honors students
at AUM in satisfying their Core Curriculum requirements, and are encouraged to confirm that
their major advisors are aware of the differences. Questions about honors courses and the Core
Curriculum may be directed to Director Jordan.

Honors students who enter as freshmen are expected to take HONR 1757 in both the fall
and spring semesters of their first year. This course substitutes for ENGL 1010 and 1020,
satisfying Area I of the AUM Core Curriculum. Freshman honors students who have
already met this requirement when they enroll at AUM may use HONR 1757 to satisfy Area
II or Area IV requirements instead.

Students may substitute HONR 1957, HONR 2757, or HONR 3757 for courses that satisfy
Area II or Area IV requirements in the AUM Core Curriculum.

Departmental honors courses (e.g., BIOL 1017, COMM 1017, PHIL 2007, etc.) may also be
used to satisfy AUM Core Curriculum requirements. Honors students should register for
honors versions of core courses whenever possible.

University Honors
The highest honors conferred by the UHP are University Honors, earned by students who
maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher and complete the following curriculum with a
grade of ‘B’ or better in each course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HONR 1757</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONR 1957</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONR 2757</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONR 3757</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONR 3957</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONR 4957</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Warhawk Honors
Alternatively, UHP students may earn Warhawk Honors, in either of the following ways:

(1) by completing 21 semester hours of honors credit, of which at least 18 hours are
honors seminar courses (HONR 1757, HONR 2757, or HONR 3757)

or

(2) by completing 15 semester hours of honors credit, of which at least 9 hours are
honors courses “by contract” within the student’s major.

Students must earn a grade of ‘B’ or better in each course in order for it to count toward the
Warhawk Honors semester hours requirement, and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.4
or higher in order to graduate from the UHP.
IV. Honors Courses (HONR)

A. The UHP curriculum includes these courses:

**Seminars:** HONR 1757, HONR 2757, and HONR 3757. Taught by interdisciplinary faculty teams, these courses are the heart of the honors curriculum. Topics and assignments vary depending upon the professors who teach the courses, but some texts and themes are consistently employed:

➢ HONR 1757 (Fall of freshman year): includes *The Apology of Socrates, 1984*, and *Brave New World*; students are challenged to think about the nature and value of education.

➢ HONR 1757 (Spring of freshman year): considers the question, “What does it mean to be human?” The anthology *Being Human* (ed. Leon Kass) is frequently used.

➢ HONR 2757 (Fall and spring, sophomore year): students read Plato’s *Republic* or Darwin’s *Origin of Species*; these texts are incorporated into the course in whatever manner the instructors deem best.

➢ HONR 3757 (Fall of junior year): this is a research-oriented course intended to help students prepare for their senior thesis projects. Topics and themes vary with each offering.

➢ HONR 3757 (Spring of junior year): the focus of this course is leadership. As part of the course, students develop a proposal for a substantial service project of some kind.

**Colloquia:** HONR 1957. The honors colloquium is a one-credit hour course in which students are graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Topics and themes vary with each offering. Students are expected to take the colloquium course three times, and are strongly encouraged to choose a diversity of emphases.

**Special Topics:** HONR 1997, HONR 2997, HONR 3997, HONR 4997. Honors faculty may occasionally design and teach special topics courses. These elective courses count toward graduation credit hour requirements and/or toward honors credit hour requirements. Topics and themes vary with each offering.

**Research and Thesis:** HONR 3957, HONR 4957. In order to graduate with full University Honors, a student must complete and defend a senior thesis project. Normally, this is done via enrolling in HONR 3957 in the fall of the senior year and in HONR 4957 in the spring. Students are strongly encouraged to begin thinking about thesis project ideas and to identify faculty in their majors who could serve on a thesis committee as early in their studies as possible.
B. Honors Courses by Departments
Honors courses offered by various departments are designated by a four-digit number ending with a “7” or “8.” Currently, academic departments at AUM offer these honors courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOL 1017/1018</th>
<th>ECON 2017</th>
<th>HIST 1027</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1027/1028</td>
<td>ECON 2027</td>
<td>PHIL 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1017</td>
<td>HIST 1017</td>
<td>SOCI 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Honors Courses by Contract
An honors contract allows students in the University Honors Program to earn honors credit in a non-honors course.

Eligibility for an Honors Contract
• Classes at the 3000-level or above can be used for contracts. Normally those classes do not include internships, departmental independent studies, selected topics, and the like.
• Honors contracts may be used in any semester.
• Any faculty member may work with UHP students who wish to complete an honors contract at the discretion of the faculty member and with approval from his/her department head. Department heads will determine whether part time faculty members may take on the addition of honors contracts.

Proposal and Approval Process
• Virtually any course at AUM at the 3000-level or above may be taken for honors credit. Departments and colleges may identify courses that are or are not suitable for conversion to honors credit.
• Additional work alone does not represent honors work. Students should be sure that honors contracts include a proposal that will take them deeper into course materials, provide a breadth of understanding that is beyond the regular course’s scope, or give them an experience that materially enhances normal course goals.
• All honors contracts must include a written component. For example, a PowerPoint presentation might be accompanied by a written explanation or justification.
• Using the form provided, students must bring proposals to the UHP office in 705 Ida Belle Young Library Tower no later than the Friday of the third week of classes. All required signatures must be completed (student, instructor, department head) prior to submitting the contract form. The UHP Director has final authority over whether a contract is approved; students will be notified if contracts are not approved.
Before submitting a proposal, make sure that you are using the most up-to-date version of the contract form (as of this writing, the most recent form is dated May 2017).

Additional Information about Honors Contracts
• The UHP will not approve contracts deemed inappropriate or lacking in the quality or quantity of work necessary for honors credit.
• Students will earn honors credit if they complete the honors contract satisfactorily and earn a grade of A or B in the course.
• The honors contract will not generate any additional credit beyond those hours for the related course. For example, a 3-hour course will become a 3-hour honors course.
• At the end of each semester, the UHP will ask faculty for confirmation that the contract was completed.
• A grade of “I” (Incomplete) is not normally appropriate for an honors contract.
• It is the responsibility of honors students to propose the work for course conversion; faculty members are not responsible for designing projects for course conversion.
V. Distinction

A. University Honors Program students earn the designation “University Honors” or “Warhawk Honors” on their transcripts; the title is announced as they walk across the stage at graduation; they are noted in graduation programs as UHP Students; they wear orange and white UHP cords at graduation. University Honors graduates also wear a medallion and have the designation “University Honors” on their diplomas. In addition, UHP students are members of the Honors Assembly, have use of the Honors Lounge, have priority registration, are part of a diverse community of academically gifted students, and participate in a variety of service and social events.

B. UHP students may earn the Aya Zaied Honors Student Leadership and Service Award, the only award given by the program. The nomination and selection process for Aya Zaied Award winners is completed by the Executive Council of the Honors Assembly.

This award is given to students who demonstrate service to the program, the university, and to the community, who have demonstrated commitment to the ideals of excellence, and who have a documented record of leadership, particularly in the area of service to others.

Annually a call for nominations will be made among members of the Honors Assembly; a committee will be formed by the Executive Council of the Honors Assembly and chaired by the Director of the University Honors Program as a non-voting ex officio member; the committee will consider nominations and, if finding that a nominee has earned the award, will announce his or her selection as the recipient of the Aya Zaied Honors Student Leadership and Service Award.

At the first meeting of the committee, criteria for selecting recipients of the award will be established. These criteria will be made public at the conclusion of the meeting.

Zaied Award Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Ying Huo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Alex Trott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Sonni Gunnels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VI. Honors Assembly

The Honors Assembly is a recognized student organization and is comprised of all active participants in the UHP (associate membership is available to faculty, staff, and others as recognized by the student members). The Honors Assembly was chartered in July 2011 and first elected officers in August of that year. At the Fall 2016 convocation, the Assembly Constitution was amended, and election of officers was moved from August to January.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>Graydon Rust</td>
<td>Justin Davolt</td>
<td>Alaa Zaied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>Alex Trott</td>
<td>Kelhi DePace</td>
<td>Jordan Price (Jan-Aug)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Caitlyn Williams (Aug-Dec)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Alex Trott</td>
<td>Sonni Gunnels</td>
<td>Kelhi DePace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>Alex Trott</td>
<td>Sonni Gunnels</td>
<td>Kelhi DePace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>Garrett Herring</td>
<td>Ameer Bedwan</td>
<td>Jake Sustarich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Jake Sustarich</td>
<td>Ameer Bedwan</td>
<td>Rachel Pate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Rachel Pate</td>
<td>Jasmine Boutdy</td>
<td>Safa Kazi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>