

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

PROPOSAL

SPRING SEMESTER 2007

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Director

MISSION

The Honors Program will provide a high quality and relevant academic growth experience for all Honors program students and therefore a premier and challenging experience for Lincoln's best and brightest students.

VISION STATEMENT

The Lincoln University Honors Program offers academically talented students a well structured and challenging multi-disciplinary Honors curriculum that embraces opportunities for intellectual growth through research, international travel, cultural enrichment and community service. Graduates of the program should become successful leaders who will make innovative contributions to uplifting the human condition.

GOALS

1. Implement the new Honors Program curriculum

Objectives

Faculty members who are committed to Honors Education will have an opportunity to work with the leading academic students on the campus.

Students will have the opportunity to engage in Honors Seminars that will enhance their liberal arts education through the breadth of knowledge that these interdisciplinary course opportunities will provide.

A solid Honors community will be created as members of each cohort will take courses as a group and therefore have an enhanced opportunity for intellectual discourse across disciplines.

2. Complete and publish an Honors Program handbook.

Objectives

Students will have a clear written document that outlines the expectations of them as Honors program students.

The faculty, staff and other constituents of the campus will be able to access information about the Honors Program and its guidelines.

3. Submit a proposal for a Lincoln University Honors Program Journal. This will provide a place to publish the research projects of the Honors Program students.

Objectives

The Honors Journal will provide an avenue for students to garner a publication as an undergraduate student.

The opportunity to publish original research will enhance Honors students' options for graduate education.

4. Establish a national interdisciplinary Honor Society at Lincoln University (for example Alpha Kappa Mu or Golden Key).

Objectives

The Honor Society will provide students with a national network of Honor students.

Students will have the opportunity attend and participate in national conferences.

5. Host a Spring Semester Honors Colloquium for students to present Senior Thesis Research projects.

Objectives

This will provide an opportunity for exposure of the Honors program and its talent to the campus community.

This will serve as a motivating factor to the general student body.

Students will be provided an opportunity to present their research in a conference format. This is excellent preparation for what they will experience as graduate students.

RECOMMENDATION FOR NAME CHANGE

It is recommended that the Lincoln University Honors Program be renamed the Horace Mann Bond Honors Program. This is in honor of the distinguished Lincoln University graduate and the first African American President of the University. A formal naming will add an increased sense of identity to the Program. Further naming it for such a significant member of the Lincoln University family will provide a point of pride for the participants in the program.

RECOMMENDATION FOR HONORS CURRICULUM MODIFICATION

GENERAL SCHOOL BASED HONORS PROGRAM

RATIONALE

Communication with members of the faculty, including chairs, about the departmentally based program and its implementation revealed that it was not being implemented. In order to

effectively implement such a program, an increase in faculty resources will likely be necessary. Upon researching institutions similar to Lincoln, it was found that many colleges and universities operate a general program that focuses on breadth of knowledge rather than necessarily depth.

The School based program combines elements of a departmentally based program with those of a general program by requiring School based seminars (3) coupled with a departmentally based methodology requirement and a department coordinated senior thesis requirement. This provides a means for faculty members who are specifically interested in working with Honors students to work with the program to effectively achieve the goal of providing an enriching intellectual experience for Honors Program participants.

IMPLEMENTATION

This general program provides a means of maintaining a cohesive cohort of Honors Program students, as they will be taking selected courses together.

The following courses are recommended as Honors requirements

FYE for Honors - 3 credits

Transfer students may be exempt from this requirement.

Lincoln students who enter as Sophomores will have completed this requirement during the Freshman year.

Foreign Language – two years - 16 credits

Research Methodology course (department specific) - 3 credits

Honors Seminars (3) - 9 credits

Members of the faculty will recommend Honors level courses that students can take for Honors Seminar credit during the Sophomore and Junior and Senior years. Faculty members are also encouraged to collaborate and jointly offer courses across disciplines and schools. The Honors Advisory Council will determine which courses will be offered in each respective semester. Prior to this stage, the Curriculum Committee will have approved the general structure of the Honors Seminar.

Capstone Seminar - 3 credits

(Same as Department Senior Seminar)

During the spring semester of the junior year, Honors Program students should select a research mentor. This faculty member will guide the Honors Thesis project for the student. The Honors Thesis will be presented to the campus in a formal colloquium during the student's final semester of study.

OUTCOMES

Students will complete a rigorous general Honors Program curriculum.

Through the Honors Seminars, students will gain a broad knowledge through the exploration of various disciplines as represented by the Schools of Humanities, Social Sciences and Behavioral Studies and Natural Sciences and Mathematics. These courses will be designed with an interdisciplinary focus.

The Honors Advisory Council and the Director will provide recommendations and review courses to be offered during specific semesters. It is expected that these courses (which may require curriculum committee approval) will focus on increasing the student's ability to conduct primary research as well as their oral and written communication skills. The Advisory Council will provide specific guidelines for courses.

PROPOSAL FOR TRANSITION TO NEW HONORS CURRICULUM

SENIORS (CLASS OF 2008)

Students will be given the option of completing an Honors Thesis. If a student chooses to accept this challenge, specific parameters will be set for completion of the research project.

JUNIORS (CLASS OF 2009)

The Honors Thesis will be required. A research mentor should be selected during the Spring Semester of 2008.

SOPHOMORES (CLASS OF 2010)

The Honors Thesis will be required. Adherence to the new curriculum will be expected.

FRESHMAN (CLASS OF 2011)

The new curriculum and Honors Thesis will be required.

There may be some complications with requiring students to complete requirements that did not exist at the time of their entry to the University. If that is a problem, adherence to the new curriculum will be optional for the Class of 2010. In that case, the Class of 2011 will be the first to be required to adhere to the new curriculum.

RECOMMENDED HONORS PROGRAM REQUIRMENTS

In order to be admitted to the Honors Program, students must graduate high school with at least a 3.3 grade point average. An SAT score of at least 1000 or an ACT score of at least 21 is also required.

Students may make application to the Honors Program after earning at least 15 credits at Lincoln with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3, regardless of high school record.

Transfer students may apply to the Honors program as long as they have at least a 3.3 grade point average at the time of entry to Lincoln.

The latest time that a student can enter the Honors Program is the fall semester of the sophomore year.

Students must maintain at least a 3.3 grade point average to remain active in the Honors Program.

If a student's GPA falls to below 3.3 but not lower than 3.0, the student will be placed on Honors Program probation for one semester. Failure to achieve the required 3.3 by the end of the next semester will result in dismissal from the program.

If a student's GPA falls below 3.0, the student will be dismissed from the program. If that student regains the 3.3 grade point average by the end of the next semester, he or she may reapply to the program.

Participation is required in at least one community service project each semester.

Attendance at Honors Program activities is expected.

Students are encouraged to participate in an internship and/or a study abroad experience.

PARTICIPATION IN THE HONORS PROGRAM COUNCIL (THE STUDENT ORGANIZATION) IS NOT A REQUIREMENT OF BEING ACTIVE IN THE HONORS PROGRAM. AS LONG AS THE ACADEMIC AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS ARE FULFILLED, THE STUDENT IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE PROGRAM AND WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO GRADUATE WITH HONORS.

THE PLAN IS THAT THE ORGANIZATION WILL PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE EVENTUAL CHARTERING OF A NATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY HONOR SOCIETY.