



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

Substantive Program Modification Form

UNIVERSITY:	University of South Dakota
CURRENT PROGRAM TITLE:	University Honors Distinctions: -University Scholar Graduate -Thesis Scholar Graduate
CIP CODE:	30.9999
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Honors Program
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	College of Arts & Sciences/Academic Affairs

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

Elizabeth M. Freeburg

2/4/19

Vice President of Academic Affairs or
President of the University

Date

1. This modification addresses a change in:

- Total credits required within the discipline
- Total credits of elective course work
- Program name
- CIP Code
- Total credits of supportive course work
- Total credits required for program
- Existing specialization
- Other (explain below)

2. Effective date of change (enter catalog year): 2019-2020 catalog

3. Program Degree Level:

Associate Bachelor's Master's Doctoral

4. Category:

Certificate Specialization Minor Major

5. If a name change is proposed, the change will occur:

- On the effective date for all students
- On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

Proposed new name: _____

Reminder: Name changes may require updating related articulation agreements, site approvals, etc.

6. Primary Aspects of the Modification (add lines or adjust cell size as needed):

Existing Curriculum

Proposed Curriculum (**highlight changes**)

University Scholar

N/A

Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
University Scholar Requirements				University Scholar Requirements			
UHON	101	Honors Speech [SGR #2]	3	Delete			
UHON	110	Honors English [SGR #1]	3	Delete			
UHON	111	Ideas in History	3	UHON	111	Ideas in History [SGR #3]	3
UHON	211	Interdisciplinary Civilization	3	UHON	211	Interdisciplinary Civilization [SGR #1]	3
UHON	390	Honors Seminar	3	UHON	390	Honors Seminar	3
UHON	390	Honors Seminar	3	UHON	390	Honors Seminar	3
UHON	398	Thesis Preparation	1	UHON	398	Thesis Preparation	1
UHON	498	Honors Thesis	2-5	UHON	498	Honors Thesis	2-5
Optional Electives: no requirements			0	UHON	XXX	Electives from the courses listed below in UHON/EHE electives UHON 100: The Honors Experience UHON 101: Honors Speech [SGR #2] UHON 110: Honors English [SGR #1] UHON 290: Honors Seminar UHON 390: Additional Honors Seminar UHON 395: Honors Practicum UHON XXX: Honors Specific Section	3
Subtotal:			21-24	Subtotal:			18-21
Requirements Outside the Discipline				Students follow the SGR course list in their academic program.			
SGR #3 Social Sciences			3				
SGR # 4 Fine Arts			3				
SGR # 4 Humanities			3				
MATH	MATH 121 or Higher 4cr (preferred) or MATH 115 Pre-Calculus (5cr) and Honors Logic (PHIL 200 with Honors designation 3cr)		4-8				
SGR #6 Natural Sciences (2 courses with labs)			6-10				
Subtotal:			19-25				
				Domains of Enriched Honor Experiences (EHE). Students must fulfill 5 from the following EHE's to fulfill their program. Students will be required to complete reflection papers for each of their EHE's to their Honors advisor (Honors program director approval required).			
				Leadership Development (LD) Civic Engagement (CE) Personal Development (PD) Diversity (D) Coursework (C) – student may take: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MATH 121 or Higher (preferred) or MATH 115 Pre-Calculus and Honors Logic (PHIL 200 with Honors designation) [SGR #5] • UHON/STAT approved course • UHON 100: The Honors Experience • UHON 101: Honors Speech [SGR #2] • UHON 110: Honors English [SGR #1] • UHON 290: Honors Seminar • UHON 390: Additional Honors Seminar • UHON 395: Honors Practicum 			
Students who complete the Honors Core and earn a cumulative 3.25 USD grade point average will graduate with the special distinction of University Scholar.				Students who complete 18 UHON credits, 5 EHEs, and earn a cumulative 3.25 USD grade point average will graduate with the special distinction of University Scholar.			
Total number of hours required for University Scholar			41-53	Total number of hours required for University Scholar			18-21
Total number of hours required for degree			N/A	Total number of hours required for degree			N/A

Existing Curriculum

Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)

Thesis Scholar

N/A

Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
Thesis Scholar Requirements			
UHON	390	Honors Seminar	6
UHON	398	Thesis Preparation	1
UHON	498	Honors Thesis	2-5
Students who earn a 3.25 cumulative grade point average, complete two Honors seminars, and write a thesis will graduate with the special distinction of Thesis Scholar.			
Total number of hours required for Thesis Scholar			9-12
Total number of hours required for degree			N/A

Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
Thesis Scholar Requirements			
UHON	390	Honors Seminar	6
UHON	398	Thesis Preparation	1
UHON	498	Honors Thesis	2-5
UHON	XXX	Electives from the courses listed below in UHON/EHE electives (if entering in JUNIOR year 3 cr hrs required, entering in SENIOR year 0 cr hrs required) UHON 100: The Honors Experience UHON 101: Honors Speech [SGR #2] UHON 110: Honors English [SGR #1] UHON 290: Honors Seminar UHON 390: Additional Honors Seminar UHON 395: Honors Practicum UHON XXX: Honors Specific Section UHON 100: The Honors Experience	0-3
Domains of Enriched Honor Experiences (EHE). Students must fulfill 2-3 from the following EHE's to fulfill their program. Students will be required to complete reflection papers for each of their EHE's to their Honors advisor (2 EHEs if entering as SENIOR, 3 EHEs if entering as a JUNIOR) (Honor's program director approval required).			
Leadership Development (LD) Civic Engagement (CE) Personal Development (PD) Diversity (D) Coursework (C) – student may take: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MATH 121 or Higher (preferred) or MATH 115 Pre-Calculus and Honors Logic (PHIL 200 with Honors designation) [SGR #5] UHON/STAT approved course UHON 100: The Honors Experience UHON 101: Honors Speech [SGR #2] UHON 110: Honors English [SGR #1] UHON 290: Honors Seminar UHON 390: Additional Honors Seminar UHON 395: Honors Practicum 			
Students who complete 9-15 UHON credits (including 2 Honors seminars and a thesis), 2-3 EHEs, and earn a cumulative 3.25 USD grade point average will graduate with the special distinction of Thesis Scholar.			
Total number of hours required for Thesis Scholar			9-15
Total number of hours required for degree			N/A

7. Explanation of the Change:

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Honors Program’s current curriculum models have been in place for nearly 20 years, during which time a number of elements have been revised and reconsidered (most recently in 2014). These changes have occurred due to recognition of changes in our students’ high school preparation and changes in USD/BOR General Education (GE)/graduation requirements.

Historically, the Honors Program has been a complete core curriculum and a substitution for the GE core—but also requires students to take an extra 9-12 credits beyond the GE Core. Since 2014, the number of students bringing in AP/Dual-Credits has continued to increase, with students entering the fall of 2018 with an average of 13 credits—many fulfilling GE requirements that otherwise be satisfied, in past cohorts, by UHON courses. These extra credits have been viewed as particularly onerous by students who are entering USD with the equivalent of most of the GE Core. Additionally, the current Honors MATH requirement calls for students to complete either a version of calculus or both pre-calculus and Honors Logic (4-8 extra

credits in many situations). Taken together, the preparation of incoming students, as well as the current organization of the Honors curriculum, necessitated a review of the Honors requirements. This review took place with the goal of aligning the Honors curriculum with the needs of incoming students and the goal of providing “an enriched academic experience, grounded in the liberal arts, which promotes lifelong learning, responsible citizenship, vocational effectiveness, and cultural appreciation, and enhances the University’s intellectual environment and sense of community” (Honors Mission Statement)

In light of these challenges, this proposal rethinks the nature of the curriculum. The goal of the program is to provide Honors students with an enriched academic experience; however, recent literature on higher education has emphasized the importance of student-centered learning, often embodied by high impact practices. Many of these HIPS are embedded within the Honors curriculum in various forms, but moving forward, there is an opportunity to more formally integrate these experiences in a thoughtful and intentional manner. As part of this process, the goal of this revision is to ensure that all students entering the program will receive an enriched experience that will provide more flexibility for students to tailor their educational plans to reflect their personal goals.

While considering these revisions to the Honors Program requirements, it was also important to ensure that these reflected the National Collegiate Honors Council definition of an Honors education, namely the idea that “Honors education is characterized by in-class and extracurricular activities that are measurably broader, deeper, or more complex than comparable learning experiences typically found at institutions of higher education. Honors experiences include a distinctive learner-directed environment and philosophy, provide opportunities that are appropriately tailored to fit the institution’s culture and mission, and frequently occur within a close community of students and faculty.”¹ Furthermore the NCHC guidelines for a fully-developed Honors Program suggest that “program requirements constitute a substantial portion of the participants’ undergraduate work, typically 20% to 25% of the total course work and certainly no less than 15%.” These definitions and guidelines suggested that any changes to the USD requirements need to contain a minimum of 18 credits of Honors coursework. This model will shift the focus from a set of proscribed courses to a more flexible set of UHON coursework complimented by Enriched Honors Experiences (EHE). These EHEs will be a combination of existing programs for academic enrichment on campus and new opportunities that will be developed in partnership with other units on campus.

Drawing upon research into HIPS and their value for student success, EHEs that provide students with opportunities to take ownership of their educational path and deeply engage with curricular or co-curricular issues will be identified across campus that are roughly the equivalent of one week of student work. In many cases, EHEs may be related to non-credit bearing activities, in which case the students’ participation will be recorded through the co-curricular transcripts currently being developed on campus by Student Affairs. Drawing upon the goals embedded in the Honors Program’s mission statement, the EHEs may be broken into five core domains: Leadership Development, Civic Engagement, Personal Development, Diversity, and Coursework. Students will need to complete a minimum number of EHEs across at least TWO different domains. Students will be encouraged to propose learning experiences that will fulfill serve as an EHE, which will be reviewed by the Honors staff.

As part of the revision and approval process for these changes, the curriculum changes outlined in this proposal incorporated comments and suggestions from a representative student committee (Honors Director’s Council) and received feedback from a faculty committee drawn from across campus. After including this input into the final document, the curriculum changes were approved by a vote of the USD Senate Honors Committee (12/19/18).

Students who enter the Honors Program as first-year students will be required to take a minimum of 18 credits of UHON coursework (9 of which must include Honors seminars and Honors thesis credits) and a total of 5 EHEs. Collectively, these changes sustain the innovative spirit and rigor of the current Honors curriculum, while also ensuring that participation, and more importantly completion, is a realistic option for all qualified individuals, regardless of their major.

¹ <https://www.nchchonors.org/directors-faculty/definition-of-honors-education>

The restructuring of the honors curriculum specifies that students complete 5 EHEs in place of specific honors general education courses. The EHE section in the new structure does not list credit hours associated with the EHE courses and thus the modification appears to significantly reduce the total number of credit hours required for the designation when the total number of honors courses remains comparable between the current curriculum and the proposed revision.