

Honors Governance at UNC Charlotte Honors Council, 2013

In the fall of 2013, the Honors Council, a standing committee of the faculty at UNC Charlotte, in recognition of 45 years of successful honors curricula and programming and the many changes that have followed, amends its governing document to read:

The Honors Council:

The Honors Council, as a standing committee of the faculty, reports to the University Faculty Council and is governed by the Standing Rules of the Faculty. It reviews and evaluates honors curriculum and program proposals and serves as the faculty advisory body to the Executive Director of the Honors College. The Council consists of 11 members (one is a student), as outlined in the document, "Structure and Election Process for the Honors Council." Faculty members are elected as representatives (at-large or of each college) of the Honors Faculty as defined in the document "Honors Faculty Definition and Criteria." The honors student is appointed by the Executive Director of the Honors College. The Honors College shall maintain the list of faculty called the "Honors Faculty Roster" and oversee the administration of nomination and renewal of Honors Faculty membership, by and from which the Honors Council members are elected.

Purpose of Honors Programs at UNC Charlotte:

The purpose of honors programs at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte shall be to identify the creative, imaginative, and/or exceptional student, and to encourage and recognize the development of this student's potential. Honors programs shall emphasize independent study and shall evaluate each student's achievement in terms of his or her ability to proceed as a self-directed learner. Honors programs emphasize UNC Charlotte's mission as an urban research university and provide undergraduate research experiences for honors students. Honors programs shall be adaptable and open to all students who can justify participation.

Guidelines for Honors Programs and Graduation with Honors:

1. Honors coursework may be undertaken as early as the first semester of the freshman year.
2. To qualify for graduation with honors recognition, the student must be admitted formally to honors candidacy by the Honors College through the Application to Candidacy process in the semester prior to the semester of the honors capstone project/thesis.
3. To qualify for graduation with honors recognition a student must, at a minimum:
 - a. have at least a 3.20 GPA for all honors courses in their honors program(s);
 - b. receive the grade of "A" for at least 3 hours of honors capstone project/thesis in that

honors program(s), which must include research and a written product;

- c. orally and visually present their honors capstone project/thesis to a committee and appropriate university or public audience; and
- d. receive the recommendation of their honors program(s) committee(s).

Individual honors programs may institute additional or more rigorous requirements.

- 4. A student may at any time withdraw from an honors program without penalty.
- 5. Students who are honors-qualified but not currently in an honors program shall be permitted to enroll in and receive credit for individual honors courses, with permission of instructor.
- 6. Grades in honors courses shall be the same as in other University courses (A, B, C, etc.).
- 7. The credit system for honors courses shall be identical to that used for all other undergraduate courses.

Honors Program Committees:

- 1. Each college or department, or other unit offering honors programs shall designate and maintain an Honors Committee. That committee should include a faculty member designated as the program coordinator/director.
- 2. The functions of Honors Committees shall be as follows:
 - a. to admit students to the honors program and to determine their continuation in or removal from the program ;
 - b. to recommend to the Honors College, through the Application to Candidacy process, the student be admitted to candidacy for graduation with honors recognition;
 - c. to examine, or to appoint a subcommittee to examine, the candidate's capstone project/thesis;
 - d. to recommend to the Honors College that the candidate, upon successful completion of the honors capstone project/thesis and any other requirements of the honors program, be graduated with honors recognition;
 - e. to forward to the Honors Council recommended changes in the honors program.