



November 27, 2023

Dear Professor Ottesen and members of the Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee,

With my support, Arts and Sciences' Honors Program is proposing changes to the student-facing language around the Honors Project requirements based on student, advisor, and faculty feedback. For background, the Honors Project requirement was added in a large revision to the ASC Honors Program requirements that happened in conjunction with the new GE and was implemented for the Autumn 2022 cohort. In that revision, in addition to curricular requirements, all Honors students must design, carry out, and defend an Honors Project that is approved by the ASC Honors Committee. An Honors Project is a challenging, original project completed by the end of a student's fourth year. Please note that this requirement is also in line with the University's recently announced Honors Standards which require consistent experiential learning and a capstone project for all Honors students across college programs.

The original language stated that students could choose from project options that included:

- an Honors thesis (students who complete a thesis will also graduate with honors research distinction)
- Two semester credit-bearing service-learning experience (S coursework)
- Two semester credit-bearing research position (4998H)
- Two semester credit-bearing internship (3191)
- Two semester credit-bearing coursework that results in a creative arts project
- Two semester credit-bearing global education experience
- An integrated combination equaling two total semesters of two of the above experiences (for example: one semester of global education and one semester of research, two different one-semester internships)
- Other projects as approved by the ASC Honors Committee

Students were given the benchmark of spending 150 hours per semester on their Honors projects.

To increase flexibility for students and give clearer guidelines regarding time spent on the project, the Petitions subcommittee of the ASC Honors Committee proposes the following change to the project options:

- Honors thesis (will also graduate with honors research distinction)
- Six credit hours (*or the equivalent*) over at least two semesters of the following:
  - Service-learning experience (S coursework)
  - Research experience (4998H coursework)
  - Internship (1191, 3191, 4193, or department equivalent)
  - Coursework that results in a creative arts project (3191 or department equivalent)
  - Global education experience/study abroad coursework

- Other projects as approved by the ASC Honors Committee
- An integrated combination equaling six+ credits (*or the equivalent*) of two or more of the above experiences (e.g., three credit hours of study abroad and three credit hours of research).

Please note that for non-credit bearing experiences, students will be required to track their experiential hours with the proof of a supervisor/mentor point of contact, chosen by the student.

This change was based on the preliminary proposals the ASC Honors Program received from the first cohort of students and is an effort to support student goals, increase accessibility within the program, standardize expectations for Honors Projects, and add Honors Project options. Students are not doing any more or less for their projects, but they have increased flexibility in their options and timelines.

This change allows students to:

- identify experiences that are equivalent in hours to credit hour experiences but may not be credit bearing (for example, volunteering),
- count experiences that are not full semester-length experiences (for example, study abroad programs that are not full semester length),
- combine multiple (more than two) experiences,
- and spread the experiences out over longer spans of time (for example, one credit hour of research over six semesters).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew W. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew W. Martin  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education  
Professor, Department of Sociology