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Program Information

The Carolyn M. Small Honors Program provides opportunities for all Defiance College students regardless of their major, to participate in an honors curriculum. Students who meet the requirements of the program will be designated as Carolyn M. Small Honor Scholars.

The Carolyn M. Small Honors Program...

- Allows students to enrich their education through academic challenges and opportunities to both broaden and deepen their academic perspectives;
- Works to engage students in current events through debate and discussion groups;
- Provides opportunities for students to experience culture and the arts;
- Develops professional skills by supporting students to present at national conferences and campus symposia;
- Empowers students to take leadership roles in student governance of the Program;
- Offers students the opportunity to participate in short term study abroad and travel to urban venues within the United States.

Through these all experiences students obtain a richer level of learning while they pursue their undergraduate major course of study and prepare to engage civically, academically, and culturally once they graduate from Defiance College.

Program Staff

Honors Program Director:

Mary Ann Studer, M.S.

Dean, McMaster School for Advancing Humanity

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Assistant Dean, McMaster School for Advancing Humanity

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Pilgrim Library Room 101

Phone – 419-783-2552

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Student Executive Committee 2017-2018

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Kaitlyn Kuhn

kkuhn001@defiance.edu

Vice President

Adam McGinnis

amcginnis001@defiance.edu

Secretary

Brooke Waidelich

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Meeting Coordinator

Logan Scott

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Events Coordinator

Ely King

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Publicity Manager

Robyn Boyd

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Lounge Coordinator

Laura Lutzke

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Student Executive Committee Goals for 2017-2018

Student Executive Committee Goals are developed at the beginning of each academic year by the Student Executive Committee and approved by the Program Director. These goals will set the areas of focus for this particular cohort of students and specifically forward the overall goals for the Carolyn M. Small Honors Program.

The Student Executive Committee, after gaining approval, will distribute the annual goals to all members of the Honors Program.

Program Goals

- To provide opportunities beyond the curriculum of the College that support academic excellence and intentional learning experiences;
- To engage students in the development of a sense of coherence between intellectual realms, founded in a traditional liberal education and the real world;
- To promote the development of a sensitivity to the diverse cultures of the world and an understanding of the complexity of world interdependence;
- To model innovative ways to teach and learn;
- To promote for Honors students the kind of support and camaraderie that contributes to a successful college experience.

Program Requirements

Admission Requirements

- **Incoming Freshman:**

1. Achieve *ONE* of the following three:
 - ACT composite score 27 or higher
 - Top 10% rank in high school
 - High school cumulative GPA of 3.5/4.0
2. Completed and submitted Application for Admission

- **Transfer Students:**

1. Transfer cumulative GPA of 3.5/.4.0
2. Completed and submitted Application for Admission

- **Current Students:**

1. Cumulative GPA of 3.25/4.0
2. Completed and submitted Application for Admission

Note: Current students may only enter the program before the end of fall semester of their junior year.

To maintain Honors Program eligibility

Freshman Year:

1. maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25/4.0;
2. participate in the Honors section of FYE 100 College Engagement Seminar
3. maintain sixty percent attendance and participation at meetings and required events over the academic year*;
4. enroll in the Honors Seminar (1 credit hour) in the spring semester (beginning Spring 2019 semester)
5. attend the annual McMaster Symposium and Academic Colloquium.

Sophomore Year:

1. maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25/4.0;
2. maintain sixty percent attendance and participation at meetings and required events over the academic year*;
3. enroll in Honors Seminars fall and spring semesters (1 credit hour / semester) (beginning with the Fall 2018 semester)
4. present at the annual McMaster Symposium and Academic Colloquium.

Junior Year:

1. maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25/4.0;
2. maintain sixty percent attendance and participation at meetings and required events over the academic year*;
3. successfully complete a minimum of two Honors Option Course Contracts during fall and spring semesters;
4. present at the annual McMaster Symposium and Academic Colloquium.

Senior Year:

1. maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25/4.0;
2. maintain sixty percent attendance and participation at meetings and required events over the academic year*;
3. successfully complete a minimum of two Honors Option Course Contracts during fall and spring semesters;
4. present at the annual McMaster Symposium and Academic Colloquium.

*All required events for the upcoming academic year are listed on the page 12 of the Honors Handbook and on the Honors Calendar linked to the Honors homepage.

** An explanation of the Honors Option Course Contracts and the Honors Option Course Contract Form can be found on page 14 of the Honors Handbook.

Calendar of Required Events 2017 – 2018

All Honors Students will be provided with a calendar of events at the first meeting of the Fall Semester. This calendar will show all Honors meetings and events scheduled at that time. Emails will be sent throughout the academic year to all Honors students about changes/additions to the Honors Program calendar. It will be the responsibility of each student to maintain a current program calendar so that they will have access to Honors Events. In addition all Honors event days, times, locations are available on the calendar link to the Honors homepage.

Fall Semester:

Honors International Tea – November 4, 2017

Spring Semester:

McMaster Symposium / Academic Colloquium – April 11, 2018 and April 12, 2018

Honors Convocation – April 12, 2018

Honors Option Course Contracts

Students are required to complete a minimum of one Honors Option Course Contract or equivalent activity each academic year that they are enrolled at the College.

Honors Option Course Contracts

Students may undertake to receive honors credit by converting a non-honors course into an honors-equivalent academic endeavor. The professor teaching the course and the student work closely together to structure the conversion. Doing so may require, e.g., an extra paper, preparing and giving a presentation or lecture, working with more challenging texts or independent research. The professor and student should meet at least five times during the semester to evaluate progress.

The student must submit a completed Honors Option Course Contract to the Honors Program Director before the twentieth day of the semester. The Honors Director will review the form and give final approval for the course conversion.

Once the student successfully fulfills the requirements as specified in the Honors Option Course Contract and achieves a C or better in the course the professor will designate the course as an Honors course to be posted on the student's transcripts. It is the student's responsibility to check their transcripts to make sure that the designation was assigned. In the event that the designation is missing the student must notify the Honors Program Director immediately.

This completed form must be submitted to the Carolyn M. Small Honors Program Director by the 20th day of the semester in which the course will take place.

Honors Option Course Contract

Name: _____ Major: _____

Course Number: _____ Course Title: _____

Your Honors Option Course Proposal should focus on one of the areas foundational to develop one or more of the academic skills listed below. Please mark the focus that will be explored through this Honors Option Course. In the proposal include each of the following components: the goal of the project, description of the project, how the project will work to develop your academic skills, and the method of evaluating the project.

Best practices that develop effective research skills

- **Problem-Based Instruction** – Students, working in cooperative groups, are given a problem or case study to address that reflects complex, real-world situations. Students learn to analyze the problem, find appropriate resources and locate needed information, share their findings, and formulate and evaluate possible solutions. Research-focused variations for problem-based instruction include using classic published research papers as sources for problems.
- **Project-Oriented Laboratory** – Students, working in cooperative lab groups, are given an open-ended problem to solve. Over the course of the semester, students review literature, design experiments within material and equipment constraints provided by the instructor, perform the experiments, collect the data, analyze the results, and write a research laboratory report formatted as a scientific paper. An extension of this concept is an interdisciplinary investigative laboratory course that allows students from different majors to collaborate on projects.
- **Writing-Intensive Instruction** – Students learn to write according to the stylistic conventions and contexts of a particular subject area in order to communicate effectively in a manner appropriate to the discipline. Research-related writing assignments usually require at least 3,000. Students at the junior and senior level may also be involved in grant proposal development for research projects.
- **Research Methods** – Students learn about research methods used in a particular field or discipline. Research methods courses in the sciences may include computational data analysis, statistics and experimental design. In the social sciences, a research methods course might involve students developing their own research projects - selecting a research topic and writing a research proposal. Once the proposal is approved by the institutional review board, students will then collect and analyze the data, write a paper, and present the results.

The above was summarized from two Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) publications, *Reinvigorating the Undergraduate Experience: Successful Models Supported by NSF's AIRE/RAIRE Program* (2004) and *Developing & Sustaining a Research-Supportive Curriculum: A Compendium of Successful Practices* (2007).

Honors Option Course Proposal (please attach additional sheets if necessary):

Project Description:

Project Goals:

Description of how the project will develop one or more of the research skills listed above:

Method of project evaluation:

Faculty Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

This completed form must be submitted to the Carolyn M. Small Honors Program Director by the 20th day of the semester in which the course will take place.

Honors Option Course Contract

Name: _____ Major: _____

Course Number: _____ Course Title: _____

Your Honors Option Course Proposal should focus on one of the areas foundational to develop one or more of the academic skills listed below. Please mark the focus that will be explored through this Honors Option Course. In the proposal include each of the following components: the goal of the project, description of the project, how the project will work to develop your academic skills, and the method of evaluating the project.

Best practices that develop effective research skills

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Project Description:

Project Goals:

Description of how the project will develop one or more of the research skills listed above:

Method of project evaluation:

Faculty Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

HONORS Academic Colloquium

Freshman Honors students are required to attend the annual McMaster Symposium and Academic Colloquium. Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Honors students are required to present at the annual McMaster Symposium and Academic Colloquium. Students may present individual work or in conjunction with McMaster Learning Communities, or classes. If a student has presented at recent national conference such as National Collegiate Honors Council are excused from this requirement. However all exceptions to this requirement must be approved of the Honors Program Director.

All presentations require that the student submit a McMaster Symposium Proposal or an Academic Colloquium Application to present which will be available online through the Honors Program website.

Deadlines for the 2017– 2018 McMaster Symposium and Academic Colloquium will be announced during the fall semester:

Honors Program Probation

Academic Probation: Students will be placed on Honors Program academic probation if their cumulative G.P.A. falls below 3.25. In order to regain good standing in the program, students must maintain a 3.25 G.P.A. or higher. If the semester G.P.A. falls below 3.0 while on academic probation, the student will be dropped from the program and may reapply when the minimum requirements for entrance are achieved. In addition students found guilty of academic dishonesty (first incident) will be placed on academic probation with the Honors Program for a period of one semester.

Progress Probation: Students will be placed on Honors Program progress probation if they fail to complete any of the program requirements as listed above for any given academic year. In order to regain good standing in the program students must make up Honors Option Course-work, missed events and meetings in the academic year following the year in which they failed to meet the requirements of the program.

Each semester the Honors Program Director checks that students have fulfilled all the Honors Program requirements. Students who are not fulfilling all of the Honors Program requirements are expected to contact the Honors Program Director to discuss their status and work out a plan to maintain program membership before the office must contact them.

Honors Code

Honors Program students are expected to abide by the highest ethical standards in preparing and presenting material which demonstrates their level of knowledge and which is used to determine grades. Such standards are founded on basic concepts of integrity and honesty. Student should familiarize themselves with the Defiance College Academic Integrity Policy which is detailed in the college catalog under Academic Life.

An instructor who has evidence that an Honors Program student has committed an act of academic dishonesty is requested to notify the Honors Program director in addition to other designated personnel on campus. In addition to the college disciplinary action, the student will be placed on probation with the Honors Program and will be dismissed from the program if a second incident occurs.

Conference Presentation / Attendance:

Students may write a student development grant to present and / or attend a national conference such as but not limited to National Collegiate Honors Council. The grant proposal will include each of the following elements:

- Dates of travel
- Name and location of Conference
- Purpose of the trip
- Presentation title and abstract (if you are presenting)
- Copy of your acceptance to present
- Justification relative to the student personally/professionally and relative to the Honors Program
- Anticipated outcome of the experience
- Estimated budget

Students will submit the above grant proposal to the Director of the Honors Program in a timely manner so that early conference registration and accommodations can be secured upon acceptance of the proposal. Depending on available funds all, part, or none of the proposal may be funded. Generally speaking the Program makes every attempt to fund students who have an active role in the conference as presenters, facilitators, or moderators. Conference attendance only without an active role is less likely to be fully funded.

NOTE: On either of the above experiences if a student by their own choice does not engage in the trip for reasons not covered by standard travel insurance policies the student is responsible for reimbursing the Honors Program for any monies lost as a result of their action.

Honors Program Student Development Grant

Name: _____

Conference Information

Organization: _____

Dates of travel: _____

Conference Theme: _____

Conference Location: _____

Presentation/Conference Participation

Description of the activity (activities) that you will be engaged in at the conference; attach your presentation proposal to this grant request and the acceptance confirmation. Describe any other duties that you will be participating in such as session moderator and attach the acceptance confirmation to this request.

Date and time of your presentation: _____

If you submitted a proposal but it was not accepted please attach the proposal you submitted to this grant request and the email received by the conference.

Funding Justification / Anticipated Outcome

Please attach a justification for funding from the perspectives of (1) personal growth and professionalism; (2) a benefit to the Carolyn M. Small Honors Program and Defiance College; and (3) benefit to other Honors Programs and institutions.

Budget

Please list estimates for each of the following; don't hesitate to ask for help in estimating these figures from the Honors Program Director.

Conference registration:

Lodging:

Food:

Airfare/Vehicle Cost:

Other Anticipated Expenses:

Student Executive Committee

Nominations will be accepted beginning April 1st of each academic year for positions on the Student Executive Committee. By the third week in April each Honors Student will receive an email ballot and is encouraged to vote to select the make-up of the Student Executive Committee for the following academic year.

Once a student has been selected it is expected that they fulfill the obligations of the position held which includes attendance at all the Student Executive Committee meetings unless excused by the Honors Program President in consultation with the Honors Program Director. If a student is faced with unexpected circumstances that make it impossible to fulfill their obligation they must formally notify both the Honors Program President and Director and in writing resign. In the event that this happens a special election will be held to fill the position.

Student Executive Committee Position Descriptions

It is the responsibility of all executive committee members to attend all of the Executive Committee meetings or notify the Student President or the Honors Program Director.

President:

1. Lead the executive committee in the development of the goals and objectives of the academic year;
2. Oversee the progress of sub committees and work within the program to achieve goals and objectives;
3. Mentor the Vice President
4. Report directly to Honors Program Director.
5. Send out e-mails to Honors Executive Committee as meeting reminders
6. Bi-weekly meeting with Vice President
7. Have calendar of events for the year completed and organized
8. Inform the Publicity Manager of all events and information that needs to be published on the various social media accounts

Vice President:

1. Assist the President with the implementation of the program's goals and objectives
2. Learn the responsibilities of the Honors program president
3. Send out e-mails to honors students for meeting reminders
4. Take attendance at meetings and maintain an attendance spreadsheet
5. Bi-weekly meeting with President

Secretary:

1. Record the minutes for all Executive Committee meetings
2. Submit the meeting minutes to the Executive Committee to review and approve at following Executive meeting
3. Distribute approved and finalized minutes to the membership
4. Print and distribute materials about events throughout the Honors membership and the campus and community if it applies

Events Coordinator:

1. Work with Honors students to create ideas of possible events
2. Run events through Honors Program Director
3. Plan and prepare the events
4. Notify the membership of all events presented through Honors, after proofing all flyers through the Honors Program Director.
5. Organize, coordinate the annual International Tea.
6. E-mail event reminders to Honors students
7. Plan at least one event per month for Honors students

Meeting Coordinator:

1. Plan honors topics for discussion during meetings
2. E-mail reminders to students about their upcoming topics and meetings.
3. Leading discussions at all meetings
4. Communicate with President and Vice President regarding meeting topics

Publicity Manager:

1. Create and maintain the following:
 - a. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Honors Executive E-mail account
2. Manage all social media accounts with reminders for meetings, Honors events, Hunger Week facts and any other information fellow Executive Board Members report to be shared
3. Attend and collect photographs from all Honors events
4. Compile a database of the current clubs, organizations, and sports that current Honors Students partake in
5. Collect pictures from all Honors students to show their involvement campus wide

Lounge Coordinator:

1. Work with students in the Program to schedule cleaning and maintenance of the Honors Student Lounge
2. Regularly assess the condition of the lounge and status of supplies, etc.
3. Communicate with the Honors Program director any concerns or issues with usage of the lounge space
4. Work with the student executive committee and Program Director to improve the Honors Lounge and its usefulness to Honors students

Affiliation

The Carolyn M. Small Honors Program at Defiance College is a member of the Honors organizations listed below.

National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC)

Mission Statement

I. Vision

Excellence in and respect for Honors education

II. Mission

To serve Honors professionals and students, and to advance undergraduate education.

III. Core Values Statement

The National Collegiate Honors Council values an atmosphere that promotes academic opportunity and challenge for Honors students and faculty. Within this intellectual environment, members of Honors communities demonstrate integrity, respect, and excellence. Through the Honors experience, participants realize enhanced personal, social, and intellectual development. The NCHC recognizes the importance of life-long learning and social responsibility in preparing individuals for an increasingly complex world. These beliefs and values are reinforced among member institutions through the collegiality and shared purpose of the NCHC.

Contact Information:

NCHC

1100 Neihardt Residence Center

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

540 N. 16th St.

Lincoln, NE 68588-0627