

Re-naming Departmental Honors

Proposal from the Committee on Honors & Interdisciplinary Studies

In a unanimous decision, the Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies proposes that the program that has been known, in the catalog and elsewhere, as the Arts and Sciences “Department Honors Program” be re-named the Arts and Sciences “Honors Thesis Program.” We propose, in addition, that the department-level designation be changed to “Honors Thesis in (for example) Classical Studies.”

Rationale

This change will bring about no change in the program itself; it will only bring the program’s title in line with its current requirements and purpose.

It was never intended that a designation of “honors” carry any implication for the student’s overall record in the major. However, when a student has been awarded “Honors in Classical Studies” it has been easy for a graduate school or potential employer to assume that the student must have a truly distinguished overall GPA in the major. Also, there is no reference to the thesis requirement in the existing title, so a graduate school or employer would have no way to know that the thesis is the program’s defining requirement and that honors students have all had rigorous research experiences. The proposed change in title is intended to place the emphasis on the thesis, as is the program’s intent.

This proposal received unanimous approval from the collective members of the Educational Policy Committee.

The EPC would now like to make the following MOTION:

To change the language of the senior honors program as follows:

- a) The program that has been known, in the catalog and elsewhere, as the Arts and Sciences “Department Honors Program” be re-named the Arts and Sciences “Honors Thesis Program.”**
- b) The department-level designation be changed to “Honors Thesis in (for example) Classical Studies.”**