

Interdisciplinary Honors Studies

Special Programs

Interdisciplinary Honors Director: Randall B. Bush (1991). Professor of Christian Studies and Philosophy. B.A., Howard Payne University; M.Div., and Ph.D., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; D.Phil., University of Oxford.

Members of many departments serve as faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies. Policies for the program are determined by a group of faculty known as the Honors Council. The minor provides a program of study which approaches academic subjects from an interdisciplinary perspective. It is composed of specific courses which cross disciplines and requires an original thesis be submitted for completion of the minor.

Minor in Interdisciplinary Honors Studies — 18 semester hours

Individual courses were designed for students with relatively high ACT scores and/or grades, plus intellectual curiosity, good communication skills, and motivation toward guided individual and group study of subjects. Taken as a whole, the program encourages the student to begin to evaluate learning from the perspective of an interdisciplinary analysis, thus realizing that no subject or area can be approached from a totally independent position.

The program is open to incoming freshmen and transfer students who have achieved an Enhanced ACT of 24 or higher and express interest in the program. Students will complete an English writing test prior to enrolling in Honors courses. Upperclassmen with a 3.0 GPA are eligible to enroll in Honors courses and complete the minor. A student may take no more than two Honors courses in a semester.

The operation of all aspects of the Honors Program is under the auspices of the Honors Council and its designated representative, the Director of the Program. Qualified students who do not choose the Honors Program as their minor may be admitted to individual courses with permission of the Director. **The Honors Minor** consists of HON 210, 211, 310, 311, and 411 plus additional hours selected from the Honors Program Courses.

Student Organization

Incorporated into the Interdisciplinary Honors Program is the **Honors Student Association (HSA)** whose purpose is to serve as the social arm of the program. It functions as any social organization does, choosing its officers from among the student participants and organizing its functions to further the academic programs of the minor. Any student who is participating in any of the Honors classes is eligible for membership in the HSA.

Student Awards

Academic Excellence Medal is given to the graduating minor who has the highest academic average in the minor, provided the GPA in the subject is not less than 3.5 and provided the student has completed, before Awards Day, a minimum of 15 hours in the discipline at Union University in courses for which precise grades are computed as distinguished from courses graded pass or fail.

The **Honors Student of the Year** Awards are presented to the students active in the Program who have shown the most intellectual and perceptive growth in the year's time. The awards are determined by the Honors Council.

Course Offerings in Honors (HON)

()-Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

210. Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies (3) F

Influences and processes which lead to the formation of world views and which effect the alteration of these through time. Students will be taught how to live appreciatively within given cultural and theoretical perspectives while at the same time learning how to evaluate these critically and constructively. Encouragement to think creatively about the interrelation between the various disciplines of the university, and about the implications of the fields of human inquiry for Christian faith and practice, will help students to develop a world view that will prepare them to take their place as leaders in the twenty-first century.

211. Studies in Contemporary Books (3) S

Literature from philosophy, theology, history, fiction, natural and social sciences are studied with attention to how they reflect historical trends, political situations, philosophical ideas, cultural and religious traditions, and socio-economic conditions.

310. Special Topics (3) S — Odd

An interdisciplinary course which deals with two fields of study showing relationships between the two (such as chemistry and art) or a field such as archeology, which is dependent on several diverse areas (history, art, chemistry, biology, etc.) in actual practice. Teaching methods usually include travel and visiting lecturers.

311. Great Ideas (3) S — Even

The interdisciplinary nature of the ideas, thoughts, and theories of human culture will examine many of the great ideas of the Western cultural heritage important for the social and natural sciences, humanities, arts, and professional studies. The interdependence of ideas will be considered along with the way that ideas operate in a variety of unique historical and cultural contexts. This course will progress from a study of general theories to practical applications of theories.

411. Thesis (4) On Demand

Prerequisite: 12 hours of Honors courses.

The thesis shall be presented and defended before a committee of three faculty members appointed by the Honors Council. Students planning to submit a thesis their senior year should choose a topic by the end of their sophomore year and submit a proposal by the beginning of their junior year, leaving the junior and senior years open for the conducting of research and writing. Students will officially register for 411 during the first semester of their senior year. The thesis may be done in conjunction with senior performance requirements already established by Music, Art, Biology, Chemistry and other departments at the discretion of the Council and the department.

One or more of the following courses must be chosen to fulfill the requirements of the program. All are subject to the approval of the Honors Council.

- A. 395, Special Studies (2 or 3 credit hours)
- B. 495, Independent Studies (2-4 credit hours) Students must meet all requirements stated in this *Catalogue* for independent study.
- C. Interchange of upper-level hours with Lambuth College Honors Program with permission of the Honors Council.
- D. Foreign Study Tours (1-4 credit hours) Foreign study tours may be taken for credit for the Honors minor only when prearranged with the Honors Council and the specific requirements outlined and approved by the Council.