

Northwest Missouri State Honors Program

To be eligible for graduation with honors, Honors students must complete the following 3 requirements:

I. REQUIRMENTS

GPA Requirements

Have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at the time of graduation.

Course Requirements

Complete 4 courses totaling 12 credit hours of Honors Northwest Core courses (sections designated with an H) or upper division courses (300 level or above) as Honors Credit Agreements or any combination of the two types of courses.

Honors Experience Requirements

Complete 3 of the following Honors Experiences; at least one in each of the two categories listed below:

Service/ Leadership Category

Alternative spring break sponsored by

Lead Green sponsored by Exemplary Leadership Academy (ELA)

Community service and/or Service Learning (20 hours) in one academic year

Other student ideas as approved by the Honors Advisory Committee

Personal/ Academic Growth Category

Completion of an independent original creative work or research appropriate to the discipline

Presentation of original creative work or research (not here at Northwest)

Publication of original work or research

Participation in colloquia

- Lecture Series
- Creative and Performing Arts
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Participation in a professional internship related to a possible career

Other student ideas as approved by the Honors Advisory Committee

II. PROCESS

Student Process for Honors Experiences

For each experience indicated above, students must file a “form of intent to participate” appropriate to that experience. The form must outline the Honors student’s anticipated activities and expected outcomes (paper, presentation, journal, reflection essay, etc.) that would complete the experience and be counted or credited as an Honors Experience. The form will be signed off by the participating Honors student, the Honors Program Director, and when appropriate, the sponsoring faculty member.

Experiences will be considered complete and acceptable for Honors credit with the submission of a letter or email from the sponsoring faculty member or appropriate completion products submitted to the Honors Program Director for final approval. By signing, the faculty member or Honors Director have evaluated the product(s) as a quality sufficient for the awarding of Honors Credit.

III. SPECIFICS FOR HONORS EXPERIENCES

Service/ Learning Category

Alternative Spring Break

Alternative Spring Break is a faculty-led service or outreach program that occurs over the Northwest spring break. The overall goal of this program is to allow students to experience other places while helping others and meeting new people. Alternative Spring Break fundraises for the trip and spends months ahead of time preparing for all of the amazing opportunities they are going to experience.

Validation: A signed letter or email from the sponsoring faculty member must be submitted to the Honors Office.

Leadership

Students would, within an academic year, participate in and complete the leadership project Lead Green sponsored by the Exemplary Leadership Academy (ELA) and the Office of Student Involvement. The program will involve 11 interactive activities, workouts, and presentations.

Lead Green is a program established in Fall 2016 and is led by former Exemplary Leadership Academy students, who will serve as peer mentors. The mentors will have presentations, workshops and mini-conferences related to the Student Leadership Challenge and how it can be applied. For example, leadership in the workforce will be an area of discussion.

However, the mentors can create these workshops to the specifications of organizations. For example, if ten Honors students signed-up and a list of criteria was created for what leadership areas they needed to develop, specific workshops could be created for those ten students. That way the Honors students would be directly learning what would benefit them the most.

Honors credit will be awarded to those who satisfactorily complete the program.

Validation: A signed letter or email from ELA sent to the Honors Office.

Community Service or Service Learning

Community Service: a volunteer experience that allows you to donate free time, services, and skills to help the community (campus, neighborhood, town, country, or global) on an unpaid, frequent, and on-going basis. Faith-based or politically- motivated opportunities are potential options as long as volunteer time is not spent recruiting. See Honors Program Director to clarify any uncertainties.

Service Learning: courses that combine volunteering in the community with a structured learning environment provided by a formal Northwest course. While credit bearing service-learning courses count as Honors Experiences, the credits do not count towards fulfilling the minimum credit requirement for Honors coursework. While these courses automatically count as non-course Honors Experiences, Honors student will still need to submit of a “form of intent” for this experience.

Validation: A minimum of 20 hours per academic term and must be documented either through Bearcat link or paper timesheets and are signed by the sponsoring faculty member and submitted to the Honors Office.

Study Abroad/ Honors International Trips

The Honors program will sponsor at least one permanent international trip with each trip. These trips will typically be two week trips taken during the summer term. This trip will be offered as a formal Northwest course and students must enroll to participate in the trip. These trips are currently led Dr. Rebecca Dunnell from the Department of Music. Unfortunately, Northwest is not able to provide any financial support for students to participate in Study Abroad trips.

Along with the Honors International Trips students may also participate in a study abroad trips through the multicultural office and sponsored by various departments at Northwest.

Validation: A signed letter or email from the sponsoring faculty member.

Personal/ Academic Growth Category

Completion of Original Creative Work or Research

Projects whereby a student, under the supervision of a faculty member, collects or creates original data/work that is new to the discipline (not a review of past works). This can be done as a formal Independent Study course or an informal arrangement between a faculty member and Honors student.

Honors credit will be awarded to those students who complete the work and expected outcomes (e.g. scientific report, play script, musical score, poem, etc.) and submit this work to the sponsoring faculty member for approval.

Validation: A signed letter or email from the sponsoring faculty member.

Presentation of Original Creative Work or Research

Projects whereby a student, under the supervision of a faculty member, collects or creates original data/work that is new to the discipline (not a review of past works). This can be done as a formal Independent Study course or an informal arrangement between a faculty member and Honors student.

Honors credit will be awarded to those students who then present this work at a formal meeting or conference that is minimally held at a state level of organization (not local as in the Celebration of Quality here at NW).

Validation: A signed letter or email from the sponsoring faculty member.

Publication

Honors credit will be awarded to those students who, under the supervision or mentorship of a faculty member, publish original or creative work in a manner that is appropriate to the discipline. Publication should be of a professional nature that is in written or digital form that has been reviewed by peers or an editor, disseminated and made available to the public at large, and can be formally referenced.

Examples: *The Bluebird* – Quarterly Journal of The Audubon Society of Missouri; *Transactions of the Missouri Academy of Science*

Validation: Students would provide a copy of the original or creative work, a copy of the letter indicating acceptance of the work, and a formal citation if available at that time. Works that have been accepted for publication and are *in press* are acceptable for honors credit. *In press* works may not as yet have a citation from the hardcopy of a journal but may have a DOI.

Lecture Series Colloquium

The university sponsors a number of lecture series on campus such as the Distinguished Lecture Series (3) sponsored by the Faculty Senate and the SAC Speaks Lecture Series (5) sponsored by Student Activities Council (SAC). Additional Career Pathing Training Lectures are made available by the Career Pathing Program of Student Employment (10-14 lectures per term). Together these provide access to around 20 campus-wide lectures per academic year.

For information regarding university events, please visit www.nwmissouri.edu and click on the university calendar

This requires participation in a minimum of 3 events/activities with a 1-3 page reflection paper on each event/activity submitted to the Honors Office for formal approval within two weeks of the event/activity. Honors credit will be awarded to those students who, within an academic year, attend a minimum of 3 such performances.

Reflection essay guidelines can be obtained at the Honors Program Office.

Validation: Students will be required to submit a 1-3 page reflection on each lecture attended to the Honors Office for formal approval. Along with the reflection students will need to attach a copy of the program. Attendance to lectures must be recorded by the sponsoring group and submitted to the Honors Office.

Creative and Performing Arts Colloquium

The university sponsors a number of performing arts recitals, including but not limited to theater performances, senior recitals, and Encore performances held throughout the academic year. Honors credit will be awarded to those students who, within an academic year, attend a minimum of 3 such performances.

For information regarding university events, please visit www.nwmissouri.edu and click on the university calendar

Reflection essay guidelines can be obtained at the Honors Program Office.

Validation: Students will be required to submit a 1-3 page reflection on each lecture attended to the Honors Office for formal approval. Along with the reflection students will need to attach a copy of the program. Attendance to lectures must be recorded by the sponsoring group and submitted to the Honors Office.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Colloquium

Northwest's office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion exists to promote racial harmony, campus diversity, and physical and educational accessibility to give all students opportunities for success. The university sponsors a number of activities and events that focus on DEI. Honors credit will be awarded to those students who, within an academic year, attend a minimum of 3 such performances.

For information regarding university events, please visit www.nwmissouri.edu and click on the university calendar.

Ex: International Coffee Hour, Discussion forums on emerging topics, etc.

Reflection essay guidelines can be obtained at the Honors Program Office.

Validation: Students will be required to submit a 1-3 page reflection on each lecture attended to the Honors Office for formal approval. Along with the reflection students will need to attach a copy of the program. Attendance to lectures must be recorded by the sponsoring group and submitted to the Honors Office.

Note: participation in one colloquium event/activity can NOT be used or counted toward participation in another colloquium. All colloquium events must be completed within an academic term.

Internships – these should be career oriented within a discipline.

An internship may count as Honors experience if it is:

- Associated with an organization relevant to your academic or career interest and/or future career goals, with an opportunity to connect learning in the classroom to real-world projects
- Comprised of clearly-defined, value-added projects benefiting the organization as well as your own growth and learning
- At least one semester in duration (or equivalent), representing a minimum time commitment of 40 hours to one organization or business over the course of the semester
- Paid, volunteer, or for credit
- Supervised by a mentor within the host organization
- Designed to include an end-of-term evaluation.

Other Student Ideas as approved by the Honors Advisory Committee:

- For either of the two experience categories indicated above, a proposal form is available in the Honors Office to help guide students in evaluating if this would be a suitable option for honors credit as well as further explanation for the Honors Advisory Committee.

Honors Program

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