**University Honors Programs**

(This policy supersedes Policy Statement 08-12)

University Honors Program. The University Honors Program exists to meet the needs of high-performing students who want an enriched undergraduate program.  It offers two main options and may also offer specialized College options.

Honors Plan I (minimum of 21 units) is designed for entering freshmen and consists of a minimum of 15 units of lower- and upper-division honors courses and a culminating 6-unit independent scholarly thesis/project requiring a reflective component (UHP 496 and UHP 498).

Honors Plan II (minimum of 15 units) is designed for upper-division transfers from community colleges and continuing students and consists of 9 units of upper-division honors courses and a culminating 6- unit independent scholarly thesis/project requiring a reflective component (UHP 496 and UHP 498).

Admission.  Admission to the University Honors Program is normally based upon high school grade-point average, SAT or ACT scores, community college or CSULB grades, and faculty recommendations, as appropriate.  Admission standards are designed to invite participation of the top 10 percent of CSULB students.  Students who fail to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 will be placed on Honors probation for a maximum of two semesters after which students will be withdrawn from the program if they have not achieved the required GPA.  Also, students who fail to register for courses in the Honors Program for two consecutive semesters will normally be withdrawn from the program.

Approval of Courses.  The identification and staffing of courses to be offered as a part of General Education for students taking Honors are decisions made by the director of the University Honors Program, following consultation with the Honors Advisory Council.  Proposals for Honors in the Major and the creation of honors-specific courses other than University Honors must be approved by (1) the department curriculum committee and department chair; (2) the college curriculum committee; and (3) the director of the University Honors Program, following consultation with the Honors Advisory Council.  The management and staffing of the Thesis/Project must be approved by the respective department chair, as well as by the director of the University Honors Program.

Definition of Honors Courses.  Honors courses are different from most undergraduate offerings both in content and in the way they are taught.  Honors courses are designed to be rigorous; they include a heavier emphasis on theory and/or address more complex issues.  The assigned readings are normally scholarly works, both books and articles, rather than textbooks.  Class time is devoted to discussions designed to give students the opportunity for independent interpretation and analysis.  The emphasis is on written papers or projects, not standardized testing.  Assignments are constructed to accommodate individual student interests and concerns.  Students in the University Honors Program are invited to embark on more challenging and creative assignments, to be less dependent upon the assistance of their instructors in understanding assigned readings, and to function at a more advanced stage of critical analysis.

Definition of Thesis/Project.  The thesis/project is intended to provide the opportunity for personal intellectual growth.  It can take the form of original research or creative effort or it can incorporate study abroad, community-based learning, or an internship component.  It can also be a project that is demonstrated, performed, or exhibited.  Accordingly, the form that the research preparation (UHP 496) and writing or demonstration or performance or exhibition (UHP 498) may take will vary with the student.  The end product may be a scholarly paper, a performance, or an exhibition.  A performance or an exhibition must be accompanied by a reflective written component.  The director of the University Honors Program will determine the appropriate format for the thesis/project in consultation with the faculty member supervising the student's work.

Advisory Council. The University Honors Program shall have an Advisory Council composed of the director (ex officio, non-voting); a designee of the provost (ex officio, non-voting); up to 17 college representatives, including up to four from the College of Liberal Arts, up to three from the College of Health and Human Services and up to two from each of the other colleges, selected by the respective college councils, preferably faculty who have taught in the program or supervised honors thesis/projects, and including no more than 3 non-faculty representatives in total; and two honors students, selected by the Honors Director.  Terms shall be for two years in the case of faculty and one year in the case of students, and members shall be eligible for re-appointment.  The Advisory Council shall conduct a minimum of one meeting each semester and shall conduct review of program admissions and scholarship applications.

Honors in the Major. Honors in the Major is distinct from the University Honors Program. Honors in the Major (minimum of 9 units) consists of a minimum of one upper-division honors-specific course in the student’s major department and a culminating 6-unit active learning project (courses in the major department equivalent to UHP 496 and UHP 498).  Students in University Honors whose major department offers an Honors in the Major Program may apply to participate in both programs, in which case the University Honors thesis/project would be satisfied through the Honors in the Major option.