

California State University, Long Beach

POLICY STATEMENT

June 1, 1982

Number: 82-09

File: Honors

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Description: This curricular program, recommended by the Planning and Educational Policies Council on March 25, 1982, and by the Academic Senate on April 15, 1982, was approved by the President on May 14, 1982.

Available within the University Scholars Program are three options designed to meet the varying needs of students.

- (1) General Honors
- (2) Honors in the Major or in a Special (Interdisciplinary) Major
- (3) A combination of the above for which both the course work prescribed for General Honors and the departmental requirements for Honors in the Major are successfully satisfied.

General Honors Option of the University Scholars Program

The General Honors program is a special approach to the General Education Requirements of the University which enhances and builds on them. It is a program of carefully-selected courses and specially-designed, multi-disciplinary seminars from which a student chooses a minimum of 30 units, most of which are applied toward the 51 units of General Education courses required for graduation of all students. Those courses designated for General Honors credit encourage student participation on an academic level not generally possible in the usual curricular offering.

The objectives of General Honors within the University Scholars Program are:

- to provide highly motivated students an exceptional educational opportunity to challenge and expand their intellectual capacities especially in terms of increased breadth and depth.
- to deepen the students' intellectual experiences by stimulating and guiding their own curiosity;
- to encourage freedom of initiative;
- to provide an academic and cultural environment that inspires creative activity through close working relationships with distinguished faculty;
- to advise students in their academic planning to meet the University's General Education requirements through a cohesive and unified program of study;
- to prepare students to write an Honors Thesis which is a genuine contribution to human knowledge, a preparation for advanced study, and a demonstration that the student has acquired the intellectual confidence and academic independence that are indicative of the maturely-educated person.

Admission Requirements for General Honors

There are three ways a student may qualify for General Honors in the University Scholars Program:

By invitation: Incoming students are invited to participate in General Honors on the basis of high school class standings, ACT composite score, and/or SAT scores. Normally, students should be in the upper ten percent of their high school classes, and have a composite ACT score of 26 or better, an SAT score of 1100, and a grade point average of 3.3 or better. However, if not all of these criteria are met, a combination of them may be evaluated in addition to a letter of recommendation and a personal interview with the Scholars Program Director.

By university achievement: Any student who maintains a 3.0 or better overall grade point average at California State University, Long Beach in 18 or more units of course work is eligible to participate in General Honors with a letter of recommendation from one of her/his instructors and a personal interview with the Scholars Program Director. Students with a grade point average of 3.4 or above in 18 or more units at California State University, Long Beach normally, will be granted automatic acceptance into the Program upon application.

By petition: Students not meeting the designated criteria may petition for admission to General Honors. Students are required to submit letters of recommendation from two instructors familiar with their work (or in the case of incoming freshmen, from two high school teachers of their senior year). These exceptional cases will be reviewed by the Director and the University Scholars Council. Students are encouraged to petition if they have a good explanation for not meeting the basic requirements and/or a strong motivation to participate in the Program.

General Information:

Transfer students may enter the General Honors program in any of these three ways provided they have a minimum equivalent of a 3.0 average of all course work at the accredited institution from which they are transferring. If a student is transferring with fewer than 18 college units, the high school record must also be submitted for evaluation.

Qualified students may enter General Honors as late as the junior year. A waiver of some of the required Honors credits (not more than 6) may be granted by the Director and the University Scholars Council.

Faculty and University Scholars are urged to recommend students who qualify for, and would benefit from, the University Scholars Program. It is always possible that qualified students are not informed of the Program and its opportunities.

Requirements for the Certificate in General Honors

Every student electing General Honors in the University Scholars Program must complete all university-wide graduation requirements, and the requirements for a major. General Honors is itself not a major. A student becomes a University Scholar by fulfilling the following specified requirements:

- a student must be enrolled as a member of the University Scholars Program for a minimum of four consecutive semesters and a minimum of 30 units taken specifically for Honors credit.
- a student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 or better in Honors and in all University courses attempted.
- Freshmen may earn not less than 2.5 their first semester, and must meet the 3.0 average by the end of their second semester to remain in the program.

Administration

Administration of the University Scholars Program is carried out by the Director of the program and the Scholars Council. Their roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Director

In addition to coordination of the University Scholars Program, the Director selects new Scholars candidates, recruits and advises students, and articulates the program with major University departments, various publics, including the National Honors Council. The Director makes recommendations regarding Senior Thesis proposals and grades to the University Scholars Council. The Director delivers the University Scholars Certificate to those meeting its requirements at the University's graduation ceremonies. The Director serves as chair of the Scholars Council and is the Program's principal administrative member. The Director shall be appointed by the Associate Vice President/Instructional Programs after consultation with the Scholars Council.

Scholars Council

The Scholars Council serves as a consultive body for educational policy recommendations regarding General Honors and Honors in the Major. Scholars Council members include: the Scholars Program Director, one faculty member from each school participating in Department Honors (appointed by its Dean), two students elected by peers from University Scholars Student Association, two faculty selected by the Director, and the Associate Vice President/Instructional Programs or her/his designee. Appointments to the Council shall be for three consecutive years. The Scholars Council and the Director have administrative responsibility to the Associate Vice President/Instructional Programs.

Scholars Faculty

The faculty appointed as University Scholars Faculty are those full-time faculty who have been selected to teach in either General Honors or in Honors in the Major. These faculty are recognized as University Scholars Faculty and this distinction is communicated throughout the University community.

In addition to their teaching assignment, Scholars Faculty are responsible for facilitating co-curricular activities that enhance intellectual activity beyond the regular classroom assignments,

A University Scholar who chooses General Honors would normally complete 30 units distributed as follows:

Units

G.E. Unit:

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|--|----|
| 3 | PSP-100 | <p><u>Angles of Vision.</u> This interdisciplinary course emphasizes the kind of analytical and critical approach that leads to original and creative thinking. The course concentrates on the development of seminar skills: The open exchange of viewpoints in discussion, close reading of major texts, preparation of analytical essays and oral presentations, conceptualizing research problems, writing a documented paper, intensive examination of explicit models, and techniques of reasoning. This course will be taught by three instructors from three different disciplines. This course will count in G.E. Category A.3.</p> | 3 |
| 3 | PSP-499 | <p><u>Synthesis.</u> This capstone course is normally taken after the University General Education requirements have been satisfied. It is interdisciplinary, investigating the shaping of the modern mind by considering how each of the disciplines impinges on our evolving conception of human nature and our place in the universe. The course explores the sources of the modern mentality in literature, philosophy, political, social, economic, and psychological theory as well as the sciences. This course will count in G.E. as an interdisciplinary course (1C).</p> | 3 |
| 1,1,1 | PSP-200 | <p><u>Fireside Forum.</u> In this one-unit course, students meet informally with guests who lecture and lead discussions on topics of special or current interest. One unit must be taken in each of 3 semesters. This course will count in G.E. Category E.</p> | 3 |
| 15 | | <p>Fifteen units of University Scholars Program courses. These courses will partially fulfill the General Education requirements and will be designated in the Schedule of Classes.</p> | 15 |
| 3 | | <p>At least one independent learning experience, usually a tutorial in preparation for the Senior Thesis, i. e., PSP-496 <u>Undergraduate Research Participation</u> or PSP-497 <u>Directed Studies</u>.</p> | |
| 3 | PSP-498 | <p>The <u>Senior Thesis</u>.</p> | |

- Students will normally be withdrawn from the General Honors Program who have failed to enroll in courses for Honors credit for two consecutive semesters.
- A University Scholar who withdraws from the University during any semester will also be withdrawn from the Program. The student may apply for readmission at the beginning of any semester he/she plans to enroll.
- Students who attain a minimum GPA of 3.64 will graduate with "Distinction in the University Scholars Program."

Honors in the Major

Description:

A number of departments at California State University, Long Beach offer Honors programs for outstanding majors. These programs are designed for students admitted to the University Scholars Program who have indicated a particular desire to pursue Honors in the Major.

In consultation with a Departmental Honors Faculty Advisor, a University Scholar can plan an enriched course of study in an academic major. This opportunity for program flexibility makes it possible for a University Scholar to elect the most relevant, exciting and enriched experiences offered by the department. Although students will construct programs which satisfy standard requirements for the major, they also may choose alternative courses especially suited to their interests, needs and abilities. Such flexibility is as valuable to professional and pre-professional students as it is to those primarily interested in a liberal arts degree.

Program styles and requirements may vary; usually they entail independent study, seminar courses, high levels of performance, senior projects or theses culminating in a broad knowledge of subject matter. Information concerning Honors in the Major is available in the University Scholars Program Office and in participating departmental offices.

Admission Requirements:

Please contact the department office or the Scholars Program Office for information regarding admission. Normally, a student must be a declared major with at least a sophomore (30 units) standing.

Requirements for the Certificate of Honors in the Major:

1. Completion of the requirements for the major. (The approval of the department chair and the Departmental Faculty Honors Advisor must be obtained to change any of the general major requirements.)
2. Completion of 15 hours of courses in the major for which Honors credit has been designated, including:
 - 12 units which may include 3 units of Honors Research participation or 3 units of Honors Independent Study
 - 3 units of work for an Honors Project or Thesis or its equivalent

3. Completion of the 3-unit capstone colloquium PSP-499 Synthesis, as partial fulfillment of the University's requirement of 6 upper division interdisciplinary units (ic).
4. A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 and of 3.3 in the major at graduation. Check with individual departments for special variations.
5. Students who have failed to enroll in courses for Honors credit for two consecutive semesters will normally be withdrawn from the program.
6. A University Scholar who withdraws from the University during any semester will also be withdrawn from the Program. A student may apply for readmission at the beginning of any semester he/she plans to enroll.

Interdisciplinary Honors Majors

Description:

This option within Honors in the Major is open to students who have been admitted to full-time status in the University Scholars Program before their junior year. Course sequence leading to a major not routinely offered in the University may be arranged through the Special Majors Program. In some cases the student may design an interdisciplinary combination of courses to define a major area which could be unified by a chronological, geographical, or thematic rationale, or any other logical, pedagogically sound, and cohesive program of study.

A proposal for an Interdisciplinary Honors Major should give careful consideration to adequate coverage of the modes of inquiry, methods, theoretical perspectives, research and literature, etc., from the disciplines within which the interdisciplinary theme is broadly cast. The interdisciplinary major is not a mechanism to achieve a double major.

After consultation with the Special Majors Advisor and faculty willing to sponsor an interdisciplinary honors program, interested students should submit a written proposal to the Scholars Program Director at least two months before the pre-registration period for the second semester of the junior year. This will ensure that all proposals will be acted on in time for pre-registration.

The proposal must contain the following five items:

1. The title of the Interdisciplinary Honors Major

2. A two- or three-page statement which includes:
 - a) a definition of intended major and explanation of how it brings together the resources of two or more departments into a unified course of study.
 - b) explanation for the validity of proposed major.
 - c) description of the kind of synthesizing senior project under consideration.
 - d) description of possible future plans once the major is completed.
3. A tentative list of all courses planned for completion of major.
4. A copy of all University transcripts.
5. Statements signed by advisors from two different departments in which they state they have read and approved the Special Major proposal. FINAL APPROVAL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HONORS MAJOR RESIDES WITH THE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS COUNCIL.

Graduation Requirements:

The General Education Requirements for the Interdisciplinary Honors Major are the same as for the other major programs; however, in satisfying General Education Requirements, the student should whenever possible, choose those courses that are most appropriate as background for the courses in the major concentration. The grade point average and other requirements for the Interdisciplinary Honors Major are the same as those for "Honors in the Major."

Combination General Honors and Honors in the Major

Students who qualify for General Honors and who enjoy the challenge of attending classes with other highly qualified and motivated students may wish to continue this unique experience into their work in the major field by applying for admission to Honors in the Major.

advising and mentoring students while enrolled in the program, and helping to insure motivation for excellence that is considered an integral part of all University Scholars experiences.

Review of University Scholars Program

This policy shall be reviewed three years after its implementation. The Review Committee shall be comprised of three members, one appointed by the Academic Vice President, one by the Academic Senate Rules Committee, and one by the PEP Council.

EFFECTIVE: FALL 1982