

**BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL (BC)
Third Meeting/2021-22 Academic Year
November 11, 2021**

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New Course

UHON21.22.01.01

2021-22 Undergraduate Online Catalog

CIP CODE: 30.0000

Course Components: IND

HON 499: Honors Capstone Project

Preparation of University Honors Program capstone, under the supervision of a faculty member. Appropriate for students completing an honors capstone that does not fit into a specific discipline or area of study. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. Eligible students must be admitted into the University Honors Program and in good standing in the program.

Credits: 3-6

Rationale:

Providing a capstone course vehicle within the University Honors curriculum facilitates innovation and cross/interdisciplinarity for students pursuing a capstone experience. Many departments and centers have their own capstone courses, and when they don't students are able to use other courses to house their capstone experience. That said, it is sometimes difficult for students to use departmental courses when they are pursuing projects outside of their majors or want to have a mentor outside of their major (e.g., NIU law school). In addition to helping students more easily accommodate interdisciplinary work, having this capstone course in Honors might encourage students to be creative in their choice of capstone. It also signals the program's openness to a variety of capstone projects and experiences.

Other Catalog Change:

Honors Program

UHON21.22.01.02

[LINK](#)

Undergraduate Catalog

The University Honors Program (UHP) provides an enriched educational experience for students of high academic promise and achievement who have a commitment to excellence. The UHP program is open to students in all undergraduate colleges and provides its students with uniquely designed and specially taught courses; access to award-winning professors; a low student-to-faculty ratio; a ~~unique~~ blend of co-curricular programming; Honors only research programs; specialized advising; a living-learning community; specialized internships; and Honors-only scholarships, tuition waivers, and awards.

University Honors Program courses differ from other courses in that they encourage more open

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exchange between students and professors, are designed to engage students in practical and enhanced learning opportunities, and provide direct access to the best faculty both inside and outside the classroom. ~~University Honors sections are normally available in all general education areas, as elective seminars, and in virtually all majors.~~ Honors students culminate their experience with an in-depth Capstone Project, where students are encouraged to pursue a subject of their choosing and develop their interests through independent, yet guided, research, study, or artistry.

Graduation with UHP recognition frequently gives students a distinct advantage in applying for professional or graduate school and for employment as they can articulate both their curricular and co-curricular accomplishments. In particular, the UHP has guaranteed **preferred** admission agreements with several NIU graduate programs and the College of Law. The following is a current list of partners:

- Accelerated B.A. or B.S./J.D. Undergraduate Program and the College of Law*
- Accelerated B.S. or B.A./M.A. Program in Political Science
- Accelerated B.S./M.S. in Electrical Engineering
- Accelerated B.S./M.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Accelerated B.S./M.S. in Mechanical Engineering
- Global MBA
- M.A. Communicative Disorders Specialization in Speech-Language Pathology
- M.A. in Sociology
- Master of Accountancy (MAC)
- **M.P.A. in Public Administration**
- M.S.Ed. in Adult and Higher Education
- M.S.Ed. in Early Childhood Education
- M.S.Ed. in Educational Research and Evaluation
- M.S.Ed. in Kinesiology
- M.S.Ed. in Special Education
- M.S.Ed. in Sport Management
- **M.S. in Computer Science**
- ~~M.S. in Chemistry~~
- M.S. in Data Analytics
- M.S. in Industrial Management
- M.S. in Management Information Systems
- **M.S. in Nursing Education; D.N.P./Doctor of Nursing Practice**
- M.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics
- M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling
- M.S. in Statistics
- M.S. or Ph.D. in Chemistry

Please consult the specific catalog section of each program for additional details

*Consistent with the American Bar Association requirements, for students to take advantage of this opportunity they must submit an application for review, successfully complete a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ of their undergraduate course work, and earn a score on the LSAT at or above the 50th percentile of the previous year's matriculating law class.

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All curricular UHP credit **can apply** applies toward graduation requirements, which allow students to complete the UHP program with minimum burden. Students may also withdraw from the UHP program at any time without loss of credit.

Program of Study

The program is divided into two distinct options for students to complete - each with ~~their~~ **its** own separate requirements. The Associate University Honors option requires ~~six (6) points from a combination of~~ **six (6)** curricular and co-curricular activities. Specifically, students who elect to pursue this distinction are required to **complete** earn a minimum of three (3) ~~points through~~ honors designated courses ~~work, with a minimum overall GPA of 3.30. (Each class~~ **honors course** ~~must be greater than or equal to three-credits to earn one point~~ **count** towards Associate University Honors requirements.) ~~Included within the minimum three (3) curricular points is a requirement of at least one (1) point of honors designated curricular credit outside the major. Among the three honors designated courses, students are required to have one (1) outside the major, and one University Honors Seminar.~~ Furthermore, ~~and included with the minimum three (3) curricular points, another requirement is one (1) University Honors Seminar.~~ In addition, students must **complete** earn two (2) points by completing a minimum of two (2) Honors Engaged approved co-curricular activities ~~(including all approved Engage PLUS activities).~~ **As well as a minimum of three (3) honors designated courses and a minimum of two (2) Honors Engaged approved co-curricular activities, students must complete one elective, which is satisfied either through an additional honors designated course or an additional co-curricular experience that is approved through Honors Engaged.** ~~The remaining one (1) point is an elective that can be satisfied through either additional honors designated curricular course work or an added co-curricular experience that is approved through Honors Engaged.~~

The second option is Full University Honors and **requires students to complete a combination of six (6)** ~~is achieved when students accumulate twelve (12) points from a combination of curricular and co-curricular activities. Students are required to earn a minimum of six (6) points through honors designated courses~~ **work, four (4) Honors Engaged approved co-curricular activities, and two (2) electives, satisfied either through additional honors designated course work or Honors Engaged approved experience(s) or a combination of the two options. with a minimum overall GPA of 3.30. (Each class **course** ~~must be greater than or equal to three-credits to earn one point~~ **count** towards Full University Honors requirements.) **Students must complete three (3) of the honors designated courses outside their major, and honors coursework must also** ~~Included within the minimum six (6) curricular points is a requirement of at least three (3) points of honors designated curricular credit outside the major. Furthermore, and included with the minimum six (6) curricular points, other requirements include one (1) University Honors Seminar, and one (1) Honors Capstone independent study project~~ **usually** completed during the senior year. ~~In addition, students must earn four (4) points by completing a minimum of four (4) Honors Engaged approved co-curricular activities (including all approved Honors Engaged activities). The remaining two (2) points are electives that can be satisfied through either additional honors designated curricular course work, added co-curricular experiences that are approved through Honors Engaged, or a combination of both. (Students may elect to begin the Associate University Honors option, successfully fulfill the requirements, and then continue in pursuit of Full University Honors - with all previous credit accrued counting towards the requirements of the~~**

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latter.)

Within either option, students may earn honors **course** credit in general education, elective, and major courses with a grade of **B- or higher. A, A-, B+, B, or B-.** **To remain in good standing in the program and eligible for graduation with honors distinction, students must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.3.**

Rationale:

The primary impetus for the changes comes from the UHP's desire to stop using "points" terminology in describing the program and advising students. In the existing wording, we describe the number of honors courses and co-curricular requirements necessary for UHP honors designation in terms of points earned. Since there is no good way for students to count points, and we are encouraging them to use the MyNIU ARR to consult their progress (which does not calculate points earned, but, rather, collapses sections of the audit when they are complete), it is more straightforward to use the proposed language below. Rather than transform the number of honors courses they need into points, we tell them how many honors courses they need to complete each version of the UHP -and the same goes for co-curriculars. This is also consistent with how their major requirements work.

In addition, we made a few cosmetic and grammatical corrections, updated the list of graduate program partnerships, and clarified some language regarding expected grades.