

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Honors Program

Report to the Faculty Senate – Friday, November 2, 2012

- Enrollment – There are currently 30 students enrolled in the Honors Program.
 - Arts and Humanities – 4 students (Communications – 1, Foreign languages – 1, English - 2)
 - Professional studies – 4 students (Criminal Justice – 1, Education - 3)
 - Business and Social Sciences – 9 students (Business administration – 2, Psychology – 6, History -1)
 - Natural Sciences and Mathematics – 13 students (Mathematics – 1, Chemistry – 5, Biology - 7)
- Student recruitment – Dr. Sklute works with VP of student Affairs, Katherine McCarthy.
- Admission - the admission to the Honors program was revised. For prospective students: 3.5 GPA and 26 ACT. For existing/transfer students: 3.5 GPA (with at least 12 credit hours and full-time status). While the admission to the program is automatic for students that meet these requirements, other students that are interested in admitting to the program can submit a letter of application which explain their motivation to join the program. If applicable, the student will be invited to an interview.
- General Education Honors sections – these courses are *open to all students*. There are four courses that will be offered in Spring 2013: HIST 201 H, POSC 101 H, COMM 140 H, and GED 160 H. The last course is pending EPC approval. It will substitute *both* GED 100 and GEd 200. Other GEd Honors courses that were approved so far are: HHP 157H, Chem 100 H, Biol 101 H, Engl 150 H, and Art 101 H. Engl 102 H is pending approval. All these course will be offered based on the need of the student population. At this point all courses are mixed, and students that complete the Honors version have additional assignment(s). I am striving to have at least five honors in each course at a time. I am hoping that it will add the Honors spirit to the class. Students in the program are required to complete 15 credit hours of the GEd sections. However, if a student has already completed part/most of the GEd requirements, this can be waived down to 7 credit hours. I view it as temporary solution, and I hope that in the future most of the students will be enrolled during their first year and we will not have to make this adjustment. Visit the Honors website for submission guidelines and other information.

<http://wvstateu.edu/academics/honors-program/resources-faculty>

- Capstone project – ***participation in the Honors program is required to enroll to these courses.*** An advanced research type work that the student will complete typically during the junior/senior year. Each department/college has to define the capstone course appropriate to their majors. I am attaching to this e-mail the syllabus for Honors research that the college of NSM decided to have as our capstone. It is up to the individual departments to decide whether they want to add to an existing course or to generate a completely new course. ***Either way it has to go through approval of Honors and EPC committees as it will appear as a new course in the catalog,*** ex. Hist 4xx H. I will be happy to see the students in the program involved in creative/scholarly work that provides exposure to “real” research work. The guidelines for the capstone project can also be found in the Honors website.

- Cultural and Professional event - this is a non-academic requirement to participate in two cultural and/or professional activities each semester. The students are asked to write a one-page reflection about this experience and submit it via LiveText. I maintain a calendar of events on our website: <http://wvstateu.edu/academics/honors-program/events>

It is not restricted to the events appear on the list.

- Student activities – I meet with the students in the program twice a semester. The first meeting typically takes place in the first day of class. This meeting is mainly administrative to assure that students can make last minute adjustments to their schedule if required. In this meeting we will also vote for the students organization and discuss plans and activities (we are currently planning Honors program trip). The second meeting takes place after mid-terms (8-9th week of the semester). This is social academic events, where I invite students with their family and friends to get together and present their capstone work. Please, if you are teaching capstone project, encourage your students to present something in this meeting. It is informal and I would like to encourage students to present at any point of their research. Even if they can name the title and explain what it means.
- Honors Program Committee meetings – the minutes from the meetings can be found on the website:

<http://wvstateu.edu/wvsu-catalog/honors-program/honors-program-committee>

- Participation in the Honors program vs. graduation from the Honors program - a student can enroll to the program to be able to complete the Honors capstone project and it will appear in the transcripts. However, to graduate from the program, a student has to complete all three components (GE, capstone, cultural and professional activities).
- Honors program and General Education committee – Dr. Sklute will serve as ex-offici on the GEd work task committee to assure that we are informed with the changes planned in the General education component.
- City as Text – An enrichment activity which will invite students to join to a tour in the surrounding area. It will be implemented in Spring 2013.

Capstone Courses Approval

AH				BSS			NSM	PS			
Art	Comm	Engl	Foreign Language	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Business Admin	Intern. Studies	NSM 4XX was approved and passed to EPC	Criminal Justice	Education	HHPLS	Social Work
X	COMM 400H	X ^a	X ^a	↓	X ^a	X		X ^a	X ^a	X	X
Econ		History		PS	Psyc	Soc					
X		X ^a		X	Psyc 335H and Psyc 412H were approved. Passed to EPC	X					

X – No material was submitted to the committee by the department

a – Departments that have students in the Honors program (the capstone should be defined and processed asap)