

REGULATIONS OF THE HONORS PROGRAM IN MATHEMATICS

Introduction

The Mathematics Honors Program is designed for outstanding students with intellectual initiative and desire to pursue academic achievement beyond the level of standard course work. Its purpose is to provide these students the opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge of the major field.

Eligibility and Admission to the Honors Program

To be eligible for admission to the Honors program a student should have:

1. 18.5 or more units of completed work,
2. A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3,
3. 3.5 or more units in mathematics, at the Math 235-level or higher, with a cumulative grade point average in all such courses of at least 3.3,
4. At least two semesters remaining before their intended graduation.

**Students not meeting these qualifications may still be admitted to the Program upon the recommendation of a Project Advisor and approval from the Program Coordinator.*

To gain admission to the Honors Program, a student should first recruit a continuing Mathematics faculty member to serve as their Honors Project Advisor. Working with their Honors Advisor, the student should develop a detailed Program of Study indicating specifically how the student's Honors Program is to be accomplished (see details below for required elements). The student should then work with their Honors Advisor to complete a Program Application. The application, along with an advising copy of the student's transcript, must then be submitted to the Mathematics Honors Program Coordinator by November 15th for Fall term applicants and by March 15th for Spring term applicants. Applications must be received with at least two semesters remaining before the students intended graduation date.

Program of Study Requirements

A successful Program of Study must fulfill each of the following requirements:

1. Complete at least 3.5 units of Honors Course Work
2. Complete an Honors Thesis Project and deliver results to the campus community:
 - a. As a written thesis paper, and
 - b. As a public presentation in two venues
3. Maintain a GPA of at least 3.3 throughout the program

Honors Course Work: This typically involves a combination of standard upper level (i.e. above 300) courses taken For Honors credit and a selection of Honors Directed Study (i.e. Math 340) courses. Courses taken For Honors may include (1) courses in the student's regular Mathematics program of study, with extra course work completed in accordance with instructor guidelines, or (2) courses in the student's area of study which are external to any departmental major requirements. Courses of type (1) are the norm; details for how the student will complete the Honors components of the course must be discussed with and approved by the course instructor by the third week of the term. The instructor will send these details to the Mathematics Honors Program Coordinator for final approval. Any program using courses of type (2) must provide significant justification for why the course is relevant and impactful to

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the Honors Project to gain approval by the Mathematics Honors Program Coordinator. Meanwhile, Honors Directed Study courses (meeting at least weekly with one or more professors) are typically scheduled with the Honors Project Advisor and dedicated to completion of the Honors Thesis, though units dedicated to other advanced topics may also be appropriate for some Honors Programs.

At least 2 of the 3.5 required Honors Course units must be from standard upper level courses that are not Directed/Independent Study. If extraordinary circumstances conflict with this requirement (e.g. the student has already completed all 300-level Mathematics courses being offered), the student should consult with the Mathematics Honors Program Coordinator in planning their Honors Program.

**Students may complete up to 1 unit of standard upper level course work prior to eligibility / admission to the Program (particularly encouraged for students taking Math 306 or 320 early in their major).*

Honors Thesis Project: To demonstrate superior achievement, Honors students are required to complete a dedicated Honors Thesis Project. A written thesis must be completed and approved by the Project Advisor and at least one additional department reader before submission to the Boatwright Library for official documentation of Honors completion and archiving (strict deadlines dictate completing the thesis and submitting to readers several weeks before the end of the semester when the student will graduate). At the discretion of the Department, an alternative work that presents a comparable challenge to intellectual initiative and academic achievement may be substituted. In addition to the written thesis, the Honors Project must be presented publicly in two venues: (1) A Mathematics and Computer Science department colloquium, and (2) An Arts and Sciences Student Symposium.

Grade Point Average: Honors students must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.3 while in the program. Exceptions require approval by the Mathematics Honors Program Coordinator.

Withdrawal from the Program: If at any time the student or the Honors Project Advisor decide that Honors work should not continue, the student or the Honors Advisor should submit a request for withdrawal to the Mathematics Honors Program Coordinator.

Recognition of Honors Work

A student who successfully completes the Honors Program will receive a degree with Departmental Honors, to be noted on the student's permanent record along with the title of the Honors Thesis or comparable work. The student's diploma and the Commencement Program will also indicate achievement of Departmental Honors, and the Honors Thesis or equivalent will be preserved in a separate collection in Boatwright Library.

Special Cases

Double majors who wish to pursue an Honors Program that integrates mathematics with their other field, should consult with the Mathematics Honors Program Coordinator in planning their Honors Program.