

Honors - New College, Academic Department, Academic Program, and/or Prefix

2021-2022 12. Request for New/Termination of College, Academic Department, Academic Program, or Prefix

General Catalog Information

○ Training materials and helpful links

Note: A Curriculog webpage that includes training materials, etc. will be launched fall 2020.

- Curriculog Quick-Start Guide downloadable PDF: [Click here](#)
- Curriculog University (link at bottom of website) includes user manual, etc. Must be signed into myWestern to access site.

○ Read before you begin

1. FILL IN all fields required marked with an *. The IMPORT function is not available for this proposal. You will not be able to launch the proposal without completing required fields.
2. Important: ORIGINATOR TRACKING is enabled for the 2021-2022 approval processes that require a user to import data from the 2021-2022 Working Catalog. Originators can now make revisions to proposals after import and all revisions will be tracked prior to launch. The tracking is available after launch in MARKUP MODE.
3. LAUNCH proposal by selecting Validate and Launch Proposal at the top of the proposal. Users can view all revisions to proposals only after the proposal is launched. When users view proposals in MARKUP MODE, tracked changes made prior to launch and after launch will appear in a different color.
4. Proposals can be shared after it is launched. To share a proposal email a direct link (URL) of the proposal and establish communication through Outlook email, or select Send Message About Proposal icon that appears next to the proposal name in My Proposals.
5. After LAUNCH, the ORIGINATOR must go to Decisions in the Proposal Toolbox to approve which will send the proposal to the next step. The ORIGINATOR may still edit the proposal before approval.

○ Type of Proposal*

New College, Academic Department, Academic Program, and/or Prefix

▪ New College, Academic Department, Academic Program, and/or Prefix

▪

○ Select if this is for college, department or prefix*

New college

▪ New college

▪

○ Name or prefix*

Honors

Honors

Suggested code

- **If proposal contains more than one new/terminated process fill out the following description, type and code fields.**

- **Select if this is for college, department or prefix**

▪

- **Name or prefix**
Suggested code

- **Select if this is for college, department or prefix**

▪

- **Name or prefix**
Suggested code

○

The following questions determine what participants will review the proposal.

- **Choose department or program.***

Honors

▪ **Honors**

▪

- **If new prefix, will it be listed under an existing department?***

- If new prefix, will it be listed under an existing department?Yes radio button selected**
- If new prefix, will it be listed under an existing department?No radio button unselected**
- If new prefix, will it be listed under an existing department?N/A radio button unselected**

- **Should this proposal be reviewed by the Graduate School?**

- Should this proposal be reviewed by the Graduate School?Yes checkbox unselected**
- Should this proposal be reviewed by the Graduate School?No checkbox selected**

- **Begin Catalog Year (Fall Quarter Only)***

2021

2021

- **If this is a termination proposal please proceed to the end of the proposal.**

New College - Catalog Information

- **Rationale for New College**

The objective of this proposal is the transition of the WWU Honors Program to the WWU Honors College. The WWU Honors Program has all the attributes of an Honors College as defined by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) and pointed out in the final report of an external review in 2012. Since then, under the leadership of President Randhawa, the Honors Program has more than doubled in size. WWU Honors has become an essential recruiting element according to the AVP of Strategic Enrollment and is highly effective in retaining high-achieving students according to the WWU Office of Institutional Effectiveness. The range of size for honors colleges in the NCHC database is 3-10% of the

undergraduate student body. Enrolling 4% of the undergraduate FTE headcount, Western's Honors Program is at the low end of this range and relatively small, compared to institutional peers.

It is the vision of President Randhawa and Provost Carbajal, that an Honors *College* would (1) attract and retain additional talented and diverse students to WWU academic programs; and (2) invite significant external support to meet the college's mission.

○ Introduction

Since its founding in 1962, Western's Honors Program has functioned as a small college (currently about 700 students) within the larger university, incorporating the best aspects of both. Unlike other academic units, it largely exists as a recruiting apparatus to attract and foster the success of high-potential students to WWU. WWU Honors students can pursue any major, (often they do 2), earn a minor in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies, conduct research and creative works with faculty, and are frequently outstanding departmental graduates. They are also leaders in student government, clubs, the performing arts, student publications, and activism of various types.

Currently, the WWU Honors Program

- In 2020: 225 student freshman cohort; selected from ~900 applications
- In last 3 years, ~35% out-of-state; from ~25 different states
- 72% female; 23% students of color; 11% first-generation college
- Median admissions index (AI) of 83 (~high school GPA 3.9 and SAT 1400)
- 75% of first-year Honors students live in the Honors residence (Edens / Edens North)
- Majors in every academic college; in almost every department (whereas non-Honors, high-AI students concentrate in STEM)
- Complete ~30 HNRS credits, most as GUR and including Senior Project
- >80% of their coursework is outside of Honors
- Program of 700 students is ~ 4% of WWU undergraduates
- Typical Honors college is 6-10% of undergrad students

Impact on Recruiting

- Honors staff & students host personal visits with hundreds of prospective students (and their families) annually (over 400 in pre-COVID 2019-2020)
- Honors staff serve on recruiting panels, conduct info sessions at most Admissions events
- Honors staff visit dozens of high school AP, AVID, and college fairs each year
- "Academic Strength" is the top perceived disadvantage of WWU relative to UW
- If WWU applicants are admitted to Honors, the yield to WWU is double, across AI bands

- Even if applicants are denied to Honors, the yield to WWU is double, across AI bands

Impact on Student Retention

- 94% of Honors students continue to Yr2; 91% to Yr3 (vs 82%, 72% for WWU non-Honors with similar academic profiles:)
- 67% of Honors students graduate in 4yr; 85% in 5yr (vs 37%, 62% for WWU non-Honors)
- Even at comparable incoming AI, Honors student graduate slightly faster than non-Honors, despite taking more credits (double majors, minors, certificates) as well as leading clubs, student government, publications, sports teams, and campus protests
- On WWU exit survey, Honors students report significantly higher degree of satisfaction with their college experience; talk more to faculty; attend more extracurricular events; participate in more research/creative activities with faculty

Impact on Faculty Retention

- ~40 different faculty teach in HNRS each year; mix of NTT/TT
- WWU deans have said they support this participation by their faculty as a form of faculty retention/reward (a “teaching delight”)

Learn more at <https://honors.wvu.edu/>

○ **Mission Statement**

As the Honors Program has, the WWU Honors College would exist:

0. To recruit and foster a diverse scholarly community by providing an inspiring liberal arts experience that builds on the excellence of Western's undergraduate programs and draws on the expertise of Western's faculty.

1. To promote personal and intellectual growth through a seminar-based curriculum and independent inquiry in a community that strives to understand why and how we pursue truth, liberty, and happiness.
2. To instill in our students the desire to extend the values of the Honors Program into the communities they join upon their graduation: intellectually rigorous inquiry, honesty, compassion, and equitable access to opportunities.

- **Objective of College**

- **Academic Programs leading to Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees**

The Honors College would continue to recruit and retain students for all WWU academic programs but confer no degrees itself.

- **Majors and minors**

Students who complete all the program requirements receive a Minor in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies. Students who complete all the program requirements and maintain a 3.5 GPA over their last 90 credits receive University Honors designation at commencement.

- **College Admission and Advisement**

While admissions to the Honors Program is selective, application review for the Honors College would continue to be holistic. We value a variety of student perspectives, experiences, and attributes. Applications are submitted via the program website and reviewed by a full committee from the Honors Program, including the Honors Program Director, Honors faculty, and a full-time staff member dedicated to managing overall recruitment and admissions processes in Honors.

The Honors College would continue its strategic partnership with the WWU Office of Admissions. Honors outreach to prospective students and families is supported throughout the admissions funnel and include touch points for WWU prospective students at the inquiry, applicant, and confirmed level. On-campus connections with prospective students occur primarily through hosted lunch information sessions and class visits. In addition, Honors hosts information sessions during Admissions events and large campus programs, such as Discovery Days and Admitted Student Days. Honors staff and faculty also travel to represent the program at college fairs, yield events, and admissions conferences. In the last year of COVID restrictions, recruitment efforts have evolved to the remote platforms, and now include email and individual outreach to students and families in Spanish, as well as virtual conversations and class visits with prospective students and families.

The Honors recruiting and admissions process exemplifies the best, inclusive practices described in a recent NCHC white paper on [Honors Enrollment Management: Toward a Theory and Practice of Inclusion](#).

- **Academic Advisement**

A team of academic advisors work with Honors students beginning at Fall Advising and Orientation through completion of their Honors Capstone Senior Projects and graduation. The advisors, mostly Honors core faculty and one staff member, are available to all Honors students for advising appointments throughout the academic year. In addition, Honors partners with the staff of the WWU Academic Advising Center to offer group advising sessions for our first-year students prior to registration in each quarter.

- **Department/ Program Chairs/ Directors**

There would be no departments in the WWU Honors College. The decision about Director vs Dean lies with the Provost.

- **List Titles of Academic Departments and Programs associated with the new college**

New Department or Program – Catalog Information

0. Faculty

The most likely model for Honors faculty in our Honors College will be a combination of:

1. Dedicated “**Honors Core Faculty**” with Senior Instructor rank, teaching duties in the First-Year Sequence and Upper-Division Seminars, advising duties, and extra-curricular community duties. In 2021, FIVE core faculty who would each teach 7 sections/year; by 2024, SEVEN core faculty. Following the successful model in SMATE, Honors will use a shadowing model as we onboard new Core Faculty.
2. Shared tenure-track “**Honors Affiliated Faculty**” with 2-3 HNRS courses per year in their discipline (Honors Colloquia and Seminars); can be new hires (if Honors can be involved in the search and selection) or current TT faculty (again, if Honors can be involved in the selection) for 2-3 year renewable terms.
3. NTT buy outs for Honors Seminars taught by “**Honors Associated Faculty**”; 24 in 2021; 30 by 2024.

1. Major/Minor Declaration Process

Students use the registrar’s Minor Declaration process to declare the Minor in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies.

New Academic Department or Academic Program - Catalog Information

- **Rationale for New Academic Department or Academic Program**
 - **Introduction**
 - **Mission Statement**
 - **Faculty**
- **Major/Minor Declaration Process**
- **Other Departmental Information**

New Prefix

- **Rationale for New Prefix**

Collegial Communication

- **Collegial Communication Guidelines**

The ACC requires clear evidence of collegial communication in all instances where a new, revised, or cancelled course or program is likely to impact the curriculum or the enrollment of a course or program in another department.

The ACC strongly recommends collegial communication in cases where a proposal is substantially similar to an existing course or program in another department.

Best practice: Initiate communication by messaging the proposal within Curriculog or email a direct URL of the proposal.

- Have the faculty/leadership in the College/ Department/ Program been notified and approve of this proposal?*

Have the faculty/leadership in the College/ Department/ Program been notified and approve of this proposal?Yes radio button selected

Have the faculty/leadership in the College/ Department/ Program been notified and approve of this proposal?No radio button unselected

Have the faculty/leadership in the College/ Department/ Program been notified and approve of this proposal?In progress radio button unselected

- Are departments within the college and/or departments outside the college in agreement?*

Are departments within the college and/or departments outside the college in agreement?Yes radio button selected

Are departments within the college and/or departments outside the college in agreement?No radio button unselected

Are departments within the college and/or departments outside the college in agreement?N/A radio button unselected

Are departments within the college and/or departments outside the college in agreement?In progress radio button unselected

- If the communication is made and approved, insert all communication(s) in the comment box, including the from/date/subject/contents if in an email. If the communication is ongoing, mark in progress and insert final approval(s) later.

- Collegial Communication Comments Field

See attached

Impact on Resources

- Comments

Termination of College, Academic Department, Academic Program or Prefix

- Rationale for Termination of College, Academic Department, Academic Program, or Prefix