

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 19, 2010

TO: Deans, Directors, Department Heads, and Advisors

FROM: Jake Harwood, Interim Chair, Undergraduate Council
Celeste F. Pardee, Curriculum Associate, Academic Affairs

RE: General Education Tier One/Tier Two - Honors Option

Effective in Summer/Fall 2010, incoming Honors students may select the Honors Option to complete their General Education Tier One and Tier Two Requirements. Honors students who chose this option when it was offered as a pilot, beginning in Summer/Fall 2008, have appreciated the flexibility and wider range of course choices it affords. Given the positive response from students, when the Honors College proposed making it a permanent curriculum change in February 2010, the Option was approved by the Undergraduate Council and then by the Faculty Senate on 5/3/10. The Honors Curriculum Option has now been added to the General Education section of the 2010-11 Catalog, http://catalog.arizona.edu/2010-11/gened_tiers.html#tier1 <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2010-11/gened_tiers.html> .

Honors Option for Tier One/Tier Two:

Students in the Honors College may complete the Tier One and Tier Two requirements using the Honors Option, which pertains to the three Study Areas of (1) Traditions and Cultures/Humanities, (2) Individuals and Societies, and (3) Natural Sciences. In addition, Honors students must complete the Arts and Diversity Emphasis Requirements as described above.

Students who select the Honors Option must complete three courses in each Study Area as follows: one Tier One course and one Tier Two course in each Study Area, in accordance with their degree program. The third required course in each Study Area is to be selected either from Tier One (a course with the same prefix but a different number) or from Tier Two (a course with a different prefix than the first Tier Two course). For example, in the Traditions and Cultures/Humanities Study Area, students must complete one TRAD course and one Humanities course; their third course in this Study Area may be a TRAD course with a different number or a Humanities course with a different prefix (cross-listed courses with a second department are acceptable). At the Tier Two level, students have a one-course exemption from the Study Area corresponding to their major.

Management of the Policy:

The University-wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) approved the following implementation policies for the Honors Option Pilot in March 2008-policies that remain in effect with the permanent curriculum change:

- 1) Honors students who select the Honors Option as freshmen may complete the curriculum, even if they become inactive in the Honors Program. Changing majors does not affect the Honors Option.
- 2) Substitutions using UA courses in the 3 study areas, if any, are only allowed in Tier Two, not Foundations or Tier One. Any UA course substitution must adhere to transfer policy and UWGEC guidelines. The course must meet the stated general learning outcomes of that requirement. Students requesting a General Education substitution must submit a petition to their college dean or the dean's representative, according to the college petition process.
- 3) The application of transfer course work and exam credit (i.e., AP, IB, and CLEP exams) toward any General Education-Honors Option requirement must be in accordance with UA transfer policy, exam credit policy, and UWGEC guidelines. The credit must meet the stated general learning outcomes of that requirement. Within the three Study Areas, UWGEC strongly recommends that transfer and exam credit first be applied to the Tier One requirement, and second to the corresponding Tier Two requirement.
- 4) No General Education requirement can be waived for an individual or group of students. Note: Colleges that have been granted exceptions by UWGEC on specific General Education requirements due to their professional accreditation standards and unit requirements retain those exceptions with the Honors Option.
- 5) Courses taken to satisfy a Tier One or Tier Two Honors Option requirement cannot apply toward the student's major. A maximum of 6 units from Tier Two and/or Arts may also apply toward the student's minor or to an Interdisciplinary Studies subject area.
- 6) All students have one exempt course in the Tier Two study area specified by their major/degree program. That particular study area would be satisfied by 2 courses, at least one of which must be a Tier One course. If the second course is selected from Tier Two options, that course must be selected from a discipline/department other than the major.

- 7) A student with a double or triple major may have more than one exempt course in Tier Two, depending on the exempt areas specified by their particular majors.
- 8) If the student changes majors, the Tier Two course exemption shifts to the new major; the student does not retain a Tier Two exemption in the study area of the former major.
- 9) Students completing a second UA degree must meet all General Education requirements specified by the second degree program, in addition to those required for the first degree. If the study area for which there's a course exemption differs between the two degree programs, a UA course from the major of the first degree may be substituted to meet the Tier Two study area for the second degree (assuming that a course was exempt in the first degree). Students completing simultaneous double degrees have one exempt Tier Two course in each degree, according to the major; a UA course from the major of the primary degree may be substituted for the Tier Two course required in the secondary degree (and vice versa) as long as the student completes both degrees. If the student does not complete the secondary degree, any UA course substitution for the primary degree must be approved by the college petition process.
- 10) The Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) satisfies the Honors Option for the UA General Education Program in the same way it has since 1998.
- 11) Substitutions-those for transfer, exam, and/or any UA course work-made by the student's initial college advisor will be honored by any subsequent college advisor (for example, when a student changes colleges/majors).

Questions about the Honors Option should be addressed to Laura Berry, Associate Dean, Honors College, at 621-6901, berry@email.arizona.edu. Questions about General Education policies should be addressed to Celeste Pardee, Curriculum Associate, at 621-5375, cpardee@u.arizona.edu.