

BAGLEY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURE
EOP 31
Honors Courses in the Bagley College of Engineering

PURPOSE

The Bagley College of Engineering supports the mission of the Shackouls Honors College and encourages eligible students in the Bagley College of Engineering to pursue admission to the Shackouls Honors College, take as many honors courses as is possible, and otherwise participate fully in the Shackouls Honors College. Engineering departments and faculty are encouraged to provide as many opportunities to earn honors credit as possible. This policy and procedure outlines how honors credit may be offered.

Each department has the capability of establishing honors sections of courses using the “H” designation. This allows an honors student to take a regularly scheduled engineering course and receive honors credit for that course. The student will attend a regularly scheduled course but, with the consent of the instructor of record, may receive honors credit for that course by performing some additional work. This policy outlines what is expected of students and instructors of record. This EOP does not affect honors courses which are established as “Honors Only” courses with a pre-requisite of being enrolled in the Shackouls Honors College.

A large percentage of the students enrolled in the Honors College at Mississippi State University are students in the Bagley College of Engineering. Prior to the establishment of the “H” designation for honors courses, options were limited for engineering students who wished to take upper-level engineering courses. This policy increases the opportunities for outstanding engineering students to take upper-level engineering courses, obtain a deeper understanding of the material presented in the courses, and obtain honors credit for the courses.

This Engineering Operating Policy and Procedure (EOP) is established to give engineering honors students flexibility in obtaining honors courses.

REVIEW

This EOP will be reviewed every four years (or whenever circumstances require an earlier review) by the Bagley College of Engineering Administrative Council with recommendations for revision presented to the Dean.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

There are five methods by which a student may obtain honors credit for a course. They may: a) enroll in a course specifically designed and offered for honors students; b) enroll in an honors section of a regularly scheduled class and meet the additional requirements required of those honors students; c) in consultation with the instructor, complete an Honors Directed Individual Study (DIS) or an Oxbridge Tutorial; d) complete graduate level courses as permissible; or e) complete a Senior Capstone Experience as an honors student. Depending on available funding, the Shackouls Honors College may be able to provide financial incentives to faculty offering

Oxbridge Tutorials on a per student basis. A maximum of three students may be enrolled in the same Oxbridge Tutorial.

Interested faculty and students should consult the Shackouls Honors College web page at honors.msstate.edu for the latest policies, procedures, and required forms.

- A) **HONORS-ONLY COURSE:** This is the preferred method of offering honors courses. It provides greater visibility of the honors courses available, restricts enrollment to only those students who have been admitted to the Shackouls Honors College, and allows the professor and student to explore course material in greater depth than in a typical course. These courses will be indicated with the word “Honors” appearing in the course title and a prefix of “H” before the section number. New honors-only courses require that a proposal be submitted for approval by the University Committee on Courses and Curricula.
- B) **HONORS SECTION OF AN EXISTING COURSE:** There may be several students interested in taking a class for honors credit. In these situations, a special section may be established that will allow Shackouls Honors College students to enroll in, but the section will run parallel to a regular section of the course. This section will be denoted in the class schedule by the letter “H” before the section number. The course title for this section would include “Honors”. The professor could develop a special syllabus for the honors section outlining the requirements for the honors section. The students would attend the same lectures as the non-honors students. Having an honors section of a class available also raises the visibility of the honors courses to students. The University Committee on Courses and Curricula approval is NOT required to offer an honors section of an approved course.
- C) **DIRECTED INDIVIDUAL STUDY AND OXBRIDGE TUTORIALS:** Faculty may offer an Honors Directed Individual Study (DIS) or Oxbridge Tutorial course for students seeking research opportunities and more in-depth study. Forms for approval of these offerings are available on the Shackouls Honors College webpage. A DIS course is typically used for students engaged in research with a faculty member whereas Oxbridge Tutorials are content-driven through meetings and discussions of the students and faculty members. A tutorial involves significant directed independent learning by the student and a minimum of eight regular meetings with the faculty member.

The Bagley College of Engineering expects that a student receiving honors credit for a course should perform at a level above that of a student not receiving honors credit. Therefore, a student who wishes to receive honors credit for an engineering course should expect to perform additional work for that credit. This extra work may take many forms and can include extra papers, extra projects, performing research and possibly presenting it to the class (teaching), participation in activities outside of class, completion of additional readings, and other similar work.

To receive credit under this option, the student or faculty member must complete and submit the appropriate forms which are available on the Shackouls Honors College

webpage, consult with the course professor, complete the proposal, and then obtain the approval of the professor and Dean of the Shackouls Honors College. The Shackouls Honors College will create the appropriate sections for the students to register for the course.

D) GRADUATE COURSES: Undergraduate students who meet the requirements to enroll in graduate-level courses may do so and, in consultation with the Shackouls Honors College, allow those graduate level courses to count as honors courses.

E) SENIOR CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE: Honors students are required to complete a Senior Capstone Experience. Given engineering senior design courses require significant work and culminate in the presentation of that work to a group or groups of professionals, senior design courses have been determined to satisfy the requirements of the Honors Senior Capstone Experience.

Engineering honors students are encouraged to participate in undergraduate research and have resources available in the Shackouls Honors College to assist them in finding appropriate research opportunities.

Engineering honors students are encouraged to complete and defend an honors thesis. An honors thesis may be completed from work done in undergraduate research or within their senior design project. Although senior design projects are typically group projects, it is permissible for students to use that project as the basis of their thesis as long as they indicate what work was produced by others or the group and what their individual contributions were. Students should consult with the Shackouls Honors College to ensure the topic of their thesis is appropriate and that the individual work they will do reaches the required threshold to receive credit for an honors thesis.

Each Department Head should determine which courses will be offered for honors credit. Each department is encouraged to offer at least one 3000 and one 4000 required course. Departments are also encouraged to offer lower level courses for honors credit as appropriate. All sections offered for honors credit will be at the mutual consent of the Department Head and the faculty member assigned to teach the section.

Where and when possible, departments are encouraged to offer honors courses which are restricted to only honors students.

Departments should periodically review the number of students requesting honors credit to determine if honors-only courses should be offered.

APPROVED:

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Dean of Engineering

February 3, 2003
Date

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September 20, 2011
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December 12, 2017
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REVISED:

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May 10, 2022
Date