

University Honors Program HON 397 (Honors Extension and Engagement): Guidelines

Introduction

The UHP enthusiastically supports your involvement in opportunities afforded by the NC State University Office of Extension and Engagement. Indeed, an important part of our mission is to position you for admission to and success within graduate and professional degree programs and for employment in excellent jobs immediately following graduation. All three of these program goals can be supported by an outstanding extension and engagement community experience that includes an independent or group research/creative project. This academic and experientially based activity may yield 1-6 credit hours on a pass/fail basis (no letter grade will be assigned; therefore this experience will not impact your GPA). Your transcript may reflect up to six hours of HON 397, and you may use up to three of those credit hours to fulfill UHP requirements in the following ways.

If you were admitted to the UHP from Fall 2000-Spring 2003

Your program requirements include both H-sections of regular courses and HON seminars. A significant extension and engagement experience that involves the appropriate contact hours as noted below brings to the student that extra dimension of study/experience that students currently obtain from H-Sections or HON Seminars. This Honors Extension and Engagement experience, HON 397, may therefore be used in lieu of one H-Section, HON Seminar, or HON 298 (Honors Independent Study).

If you were admitted to the UHP beginning Fall 2003

Your program requirements do not include H-sections, although we encourage you to take as many H-sections as you desire. Four HON seminars are required, consequently HON 397 may be used in lieu of one HON seminar, except for HON 201, which is required of all UHP students.

It is possible that HON 397 may satisfy three of the six hours of the required junior/senior Honors Capstone Project. However, this substitution is approved on a case-by-case basis. A key consideration in that approval will be the relationship of this extension and engagement experience to the capstone project and your overall plan of study. You should discuss your particular situation in advance with the UHP Director.

Contract Process

Applying for HON 397, Honors Extension and Engagement

- (1) Become more aware of the myriad extension and engagement opportunities available. Talk with your academic advisor and department representatives and visit our web site (<http://honors.ncsu.edu>) and that of the Office of Extension and Engagement (www.ncsu.edu/extension/).

NOTE: The UHP will maintain a database of Honors Extension and Engagement Opportunities. Mentors may complete the [Honors Extension and Engagement Opportunity Form](#) to advertise positions; students may also use the form to solicit positions or to help define a potential opportunity.

- (2) Meet with your academic advisor to discuss how a specific extension and engagement experience may fit into your Plan of Study.

- (3) Meet with a potential extension and engagement mentor (this could be a faculty or staff member, offices or organizations with established ties to NC State, or other organizations with which you have made connections) to discuss how your experience might include a significant independent or group research/creative project. You must be permitted by the hosting extension or engagement organization to engage in an independent or group research/creative project for part of the overall experience.
- (4) Meet with the UHP Director to discuss how your extension and engagement experience qualifies as an Honors experience. Contact Dr. Larry Blanton (Larry_Blanton@ncsu.edu) to make an appointment.
- (5) Complete the [Honors 397 Contract](#) (in which a description of the work must be clearly stated). Turn it in to 219 Clark Hall for UHP Director approval. Please plan to obtain this approval the semester before your HON 397 experience. You, your academic advisor, and your extension and engagement mentor will be notified of this approval via e-mail.
- (6) Register for HON 397. Please note that you are responsible for providing your own transportation.

Fulfilling your Contract

- (7) At least 70% of the overall assignment must be an independent or group research/creative project. This is to ensure that the experience is not one entirely of repetitive, routine chores. HON 397 contact hours will use the following upper limits as guidelines:
 - 1/4 time internship, fieldwork course, or practicum that requires approximately 10 hours/week/semester constitutes 3 semester credit hours.
 - 1/2 time internship, fieldwork course, or practicum that requires approximately 20 hours/week/semester constitutes 6 semester credit hours.
- (8) Submit a [report](#) of the research/creative project to the UHP Office (219 Clark Hall) prior to the last day of classes of the semester involved. In addition, you will submit a [reflective journal](#) that notes significant events over the course of the project, and the critical thinking and self-awareness that resulted from the activities. Finally, you will present the results of the research/project at the NC State Undergraduate Research Symposium, the Scholarship of Engagement Symposium, or another venue appropriate to the project's discipline. Please note that you may participate in additional semesters of HON 397, but only for a total of six credit hours.

