Honors Task Force Proposal

Task Force Co-chairs: Kristi Kiick, Paul Laux, John Pelesko

Task Force Members: Carlos Asarta, Kristin Bennighoff, Jules Bruck, John Ernest, Norma Gaines-Hanks, Jill Higginson, Todd Royer, April Veness

For Consultation

Comments requested and appreciated!

March 2018
Timeline

- **Academic Program Review: Recommendations**
  - Spring 2017

- **Honors Task Force Appointed: Charge**
  - September 2017

- **Task Force Meetings: Interviews, Information, Vision Development**
  - Fall 2017

- **Proposal Development**
  - Winter 2018

- **Consultation, Approvals & Implementation**
  - In Progress & Future
Impactful & Cohesive Program

Scholar-Leader

Best of UD

Becoming an Honors Student

Prioritizing Honors

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Scholar-Leader

Best of UD

Foundation in scholarship
Impactful scholarship via action
Broad concept of leadership
Personal platform for student success
Scholar-Leader

Best of UD

Pockets of distinctive excellence
In labs, offices, institutes, projects, ...
Work closely with the colleges
Opportunities for students and units
Impactful & Cohesive Program

**EQUIP:** Foundational Scholarship
- Inclusive and inquisitive community development
- Intellectual, analytical, writing, and quantitative skills development

**EXPLORE:** Preparing for Action
- Interdisciplinary exploration, and UD opportunities exploration
- Student-driven, faculty-advisor guided planning with formal commitment

**ENGAGE:** Results and Reflection
- Disciplinary engagement, planned personal activity, and consolidation of learning
- Impact-oriented and basis for next step

**ENACT:** Personally Future-Ready
- Major product (e.g., thesis, research portfolio, creative work, business plan)
- Have “become” an Honors student, can articulate benefit for career/grad school
Becoming an Honors student

Building the class

- **Value:**
  - Multiple competencies
  - Multiple orientations

- **Admit:**
  - Scholar: *Very top* traditional Honors candidates
  - Leader: Additional candidates, via faculty/staff committee
  - End-of-first-year UD students, via faculty/staff committee

- **Diversity:**
  - Increased socio-economic diversity
  - Increased academic diversity, & stable distribution of students
  - Increased planning ability and quality assurance for colleges

- **Size:**
  - Driven by program quality and vision
  - Learning & investment needed in early days.
Prioritizing Honors

- Leadership: Full time Honors Director, with Deputy
  - Development duties
  - Seat at the table
- Faculty: Formally-defined Honors Faculty
  - To enable governance and committee work
  - College (or Portfolio-level) Honors Chairpersons
- Organization:
  - Production centers on College level
  - Allow for Departments & Clusters focused paths
- Resources:
  - Substantial additional advisors and management
- Transparency and Educational Investment:
  - Bring Honors fully on-budget
  - Eliminate or substantially reform nature of add-ons program
- Centrality
  - Honors as a core program, not an enhancement, producing commensurate value for Colleges and University
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Note</th>
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* If co-curricular, hours represent workload equivalents, not formal credits. If curricular, Dept. (or clusters) to articulate course sequence as Honors intellectual engagement with discipline(s)
Overall, what do we propose?

- An Honors Program that will knit together the best of UD, working closely with colleges, to develop Scholar-Leaders — guiding them to build personal platforms for future accomplishments.
- Students who will be selected for academic excellence as well as desire and ability to engage in a long-term cohesive student-driven program.
- A high engagement, intentional, planned program that will have more management and advising support, and more budgeted faculty involvement.
- An Honors Program that will contribute more to UD goals and UD student success.
Questions & Advice Requested

Especially regarding:

- Our add-ons tradition and intentionally blended sections (or not) for the future
- Scope for departments and clusters of departments to develop special paths
- Opportunities for innovative Honors courses
- Increased faculty role in admissions, governance, and guidance

If you prefer to leave written comments and advice, go to UD Honors website. Choose “Academics” pulldown, choose “Faculty Resources” link, then choose: “Honors Program Faculty Comment Form”
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