

Honors Academic Support Syllabus



Mission

BGSU Honors advisors strive to challenge and support students to become independent and engaged citizens who are able to take responsibility for achieving lifelong educational, personal, and career goals.

The Role of Advising

Effective advising fosters critical thinking and informed decision making which supports meaningful living in a global society. Like teaching, advising is a learning-centered process that challenges the student to:

- clarify attainable goals,
- create effective strategies to realize personal, academic, and career expectations,
- foster independence and accountability that results from accessing and utilizing accurate information.

Adapted from NACADA resources

Students generally have at least two advisors their first semester. An Honors Advisor and an Academic Advisor/Faculty Mentor. Students should meet with Academic Advisors/Faculty Mentors to discuss semester scheduling plans, register for classes, adjust graduate plans, and change majors or minors.

Students meet with **Honors advisors** for questions about graduating with University Honors, including:

- Searching for Honors classes.
- Converting non-Honors classes to Honors classes.
- Planning the Honors project (e.g., registration, topic choice, and selection of faculty advisors).
- Completing mid-term HNRS 4980 and HNRS 4990 checkpoints.
- Developing strategies for success completing Honors requirements.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes for the Honors Advising Experience

Through the advising experience in the Honors College:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to make independent and effective decisions concerning their degree and career goals.
- Students will take ownership to develop an educational plan for successfully achieving their goals and select courses each semester to progress toward fulfilling that educational plan.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the value of the general education requirements.
- Students will utilize the resources and services on campus to assist them in achieving their academic, personal, and career goals.
- Students will make use of referrals to campus resources as needed. This includes developing relationships with academic advisors, faculty mentors, and others.
- Students will be able to accurately read and effectively utilize MyDARS Report, a degree audit, in their educational planning.
- Students will graduate in a timely manner based on their educational plan.

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Advisee Responsibilities – What You Are Expected To Do

As an advisee, you have clear responsibilities in the advising partnership in order to be successful:

- Schedule regular appointments or make regular contact with both your academic advisor and your Honors advisor during each semester
- Come to each appointment prepared with questions or material for discussion
- Be an active learner by participating fully in the advising experience
- Keep a personal record of your progress toward meeting your goals
- Organize official documents in a way that enables you to access them when needed
- Complete all assignments or recommendations from your advisor
- Gather all relevant decision-making information
- Clarify personal values and goals and provide advisor with accurate information regarding your interests and abilities
- Become knowledgeable about college programs, policies, and procedures
- Become your own best self-advocate
- **Invest completely in the educational process and accept responsibility for decisions**

Advisor Responsibilities – What You Can Expect

As an advisor, I can be expected to:

- Understand and effectively communicate the requirements to graduate with University Honors
- Encourage and support students as they gain the skills to develop clear and attainable educational plans
- Provide students with information about and strategies for utilizing the available resources and services on campus
- Assist students in understanding the purposes and goals of higher education and its effects on their lives and personal goals
- Be accessible for meeting with advisees via office hours for advising, telephone, e-mail, or web access
- Assist students in developing a plan for completing their Honors project
- Maintain confidentiality

Resources

- University Catalog (www.bgsu.edu/catalog/)
- DARS Report (available by logging into “MyBGSU”)
- Navigate (available by logging into “MyBGSU”)

Honors Requirements

- Completion of HNRS 2010 (3 credits) and HNRS 2020 (3 credits) during the first year in Honors. Earn an “A” or a “B” in both classes.
- Completion of an additional 14 credits of Honors coursework earned through Honors courses, combined classes, tutorials, or independent study work sometime before graduation.
- Completion of a three-credit hour graded Honors project (HNRS 4980 and HNRS 4990) or an Honors College-approved substitution. Earn an “A” or a “B” for these classes.
- All Honors credits must be graded and earn an “A” or a “B”. Your final Honors GPA must be at least a 3.4 and your overall GPA must be at least a 3.5.
- Honors students must complete 15 Honors credits by the end of their 4th semester in the program to stay in the Honors College.