HONORS PROGRAM
PROGRAM-WIDE AND COURSE-BY-COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Approved unanimously by UHPC on April 11, 2014
Approved (24 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions) by Faculty Council on January 14, 2015

The Honors Program has reviewed and revised the Learning Outcomes for individual Honors courses and for the program as a whole. Faculty teaching Honors courses are required to include a statement of learning outcomes in the course syllabus. The list below is not intended to be narrowly prescriptive; instructors may omit or add outcomes to the list in order to address the goals of the individual course.

HONORS PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
(Incorporate where relevant in any course, making adaptations as needed.)
Honors students will –

- Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge creatively to solve problems and explain issues; demonstrate complex intellectual and creative skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world.
- Demonstrate the ability to reason with formal representations and draw conclusions from those representations; demonstrate the ability to analyze a variety of texts, whether spoken, written, or graphic.
- Demonstrate an intellectual grasp of the diversity of the human experience and the importance of accepting personal responsibility for themselves and others; demonstrate an ability to identify opportunities for social transformation.
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to do independent research on complex problems, and to present their work to faculty and peers.
- Demonstrate the ability to state and support a claim in a significant piece of formal writing.
- Demonstrate the ability to make connections between and among Honors courses and to explain the value and utility of liberal education.

HONORS PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES BY COURSE

HON 100: Rhetoric and Critical Inquiry
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

- Demonstrate proficiency in several genres of written discourse.
- Communicate ideas, facts, theories, and arguments effectively.
- Demonstrate a conception of writing as an interaction between writer and reader; analyze audience knowledge, assumptions, and disposition.
- Demonstrate an ability to read and evaluate the writing of others with accuracy and insight.
- Demonstrate strategies of effective research, including locating material, note taking, summarizing, and paraphrasing.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop and support a thesis using evidence from research.
• Incorporate quotations and paraphrased passages into their writing and document this material using the standard scholarly apparatus.
• Increase skill in using the language of academic writing, including an accurate, versatile vocabulary and correct syntax and usage.
• Complete a research paper making use of a variety of sources and incorporating material using a standard form of documentation.

HON 101: World Literature
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Perform a “close reading” of specific passages from a text.
• Locate information to provide historical and/or cultural context for specific texts.
• Identify particular literary techniques at work in a text.
• Produce a written argument offering an interpretation of a text.
• Compare or contrast the way authors address a particular issue across a variety of historical and cultural contexts.

HON 102: History in Global Contexts
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Demonstrate an understanding of the complexities, diversities, and changes over time of the societies they study, and a nuanced awareness of how the interactions of culture and geography shape important events.
• Demonstrate familiarity with chronologies, narratives, and repositories for historical information, and an awareness of how the knowledge of the past was – and is – constructed.
• Differentiate between primary, secondary, and tertiary sources, and demonstrate the literacies necessary to analyze them.
• Differentiate between evidence and interpretation in a work of historical writing.
• Accurately summarize and critically analyze historians’ arguments.
• Demonstrate the ability to synthesize historical evidence and communicate historical knowledge, both orally and in writing, and to cite researched material in an acceptable format.

HON 104: Religious World Views and Ethical Perspectives
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Analyze and reflect on the meaning of religious beliefs and practices.
• Describe and compare multiple ethical perspectives, and evaluate the underlying assumptions and implications of these perspectives.
• Reflect on the sources of their own values and how these formative influences affect the choices they make.
• Demonstrate a respect for human diversity, and a critical awareness of their own assumptions, stereotypes, and biases when confronting difference.
• Identify and assess the personal, social, scientific, and/or historical influences that contribute to their perspectives on issues important to them.
• Demonstrate knowledge of religious elements as they are manifested in particular traditions and cultures, past and present.
• Make critical comparisons among religious traditions, experiences, and practices across culture, time, ethnicity, race or gender.

HON 105: Philosophical Inquiry
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Gain an understanding of what constitutes a philosophical argument; identify, analyze, and evaluate philosophical arguments.
• Reflect critically on a variety of philosophical texts.
• Construct sound philosophical arguments in written and oral formats.
• Articulate multiple perspectives on questions central to the human condition that are treated by one or more of the principal fields of philosophy.
• Uncover and reflect on the student’s own philosophical positions and assumptions.
• Place philosophical positions within the context of human values.

HON 110-111: Honors Chicago courses
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of urban life in a global city as a hybrid creation of different peoples and cultures.
• Analyze and integrate the academic content of the course with their experiences engaging in the city; learn how to use Chicago’s resources to enrich their university experience.
• Articulate the connection between course content and issues of diversity, social responsibility, human dignity, and urban sustainability.
• Demonstrate awareness of strategies and university resources needed to achieve academic success and personal goals.
• Understand some aspects of how Chicago participates in global flows of peoples, money, talent, information, ideas, and diverse expressions of culture.
• Demonstrate improved skills in critical inquiry.

HON 180: Data Analysis and Statistics
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Use mathematical and statistical reasoning skills to understand, interpret, critique, challenge, and solve quantitative arguments in numeric, graphic, or written form.
• Represent mathematical information symbolically, visually, numerically, and verbally.
• Use technology to generate, analyze, retrieve, record, and summarize data.
• Measure the strength of a correlation between quantitative variables, with awareness of confounding variables and their effect on the interpretation of a correlation.
• Design and carry out an investigation test in both written and oral form; generate a new data set and hypothesis of their choosing based on the observation and results.
• Understand the strengths and limits of inferences drawn using statistical tools.

HON 201: States, Markets, and Societies
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Compare theoretical and ethical frameworks that articulate power relationships on global and local levels.
• Understand the roles of international organizations, nation-states, multinational economic agents, technological forces, and/or religious, social and arts movements in shaping an emerging global society.
• Apply theories to particular cultural or national contexts and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the theories.
• Analyze and reflect critically on social scientific texts and arguments to evaluate and weigh evidence, and assess biases and assumptions.
• Gain an understanding of the opportunities and constraints that shape people’s lives in varied economic, political, social and cultural settings.
• Discuss the ethical dimensions of the organization of and power relations within the global system.
• Construct and defend a well-formulated set of ideas about how states, societies and economies are interwoven.

HON 205: Interdisciplinary Arts:
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Experience one or more forms of art with pleasure and critical insight, exploring the historical and cultural contexts that shape and are shaped by works of art.
• Develop a sophisticated critical vocabulary for writing about and discussing works of art from diverse cultures, and grasping the principles of formal analysis for the mediums studied.
• Demonstrate understanding of how an artistic style or movement develops and changes, and how art forms may influence one another.
• Understand relations among art forms, and interactions of art and society, at a given historical moment.
• Demonstrate understanding of the arts through research, writing, and oral presentation.
• Attend artistic events to become familiar with the art forms studied, and to develop the habits and knowledge of the engaged audience.
• Gain practical knowledge of the formal demands, choices, decisions, and imaginative processes of the artist at work.
HON 207: Topics in Cognitive Studies
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

- Work with formal and symbolic representations that describe and/or predict perception, reasoning, language, and learning.
- Describe and critique models based on contrasting theories.
- Present theories and models, and explain how effectively they account for cognition.
- Articulate effective strategies for reasoning, communicating, and solving problems.
- Explain how cognitive functions interact and are connected with the brain and the body.

HON 225: Honors Lab Science Topics
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

- Practice a variety of data-gathering methods; identify assumptions and address potential threats to validity; and articulate the strengths and limitations of the scientific process.
- Generate testable hypotheses; design and carry out experiments; analyze, interpret and present data; and communicate results both orally and in writing.
- Work collaboratively to solve scientific problems using quantitative tools and reasoning in the description and analysis of research results.
- Understand the provisional nature of scientific inquiry and the importance of uncertainty that is inherent in all scientific explorations. Demonstrate knowledge of the strengths, limitations, uses, and abuses of science and of the relationship between science and society in modern or historical times.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply scientific approaches to problem solving and decision-making in their own lives.

HON 301: Honors Junior Seminar in Multiculturalism
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

- Demonstrate a respect for human diversity, and a critical awareness of their own assumptions, stereotypes, and biases when confronting difference.
- Develop a critical perspective about the meaning of multiculturalism, and understand the historical and/or contemporary manifestations of inequality.
- Identify various aspects of multiculturalism that can be illuminated by available methods of research; evaluate the merits and drawbacks of particular sources.
- Use research materials to critically explore the course topic, and present findings in a substantial paper based on analysis of the research.
- Identify particular actions that might be taken based on the knowledge gained from this research.
HON 350: Honors Senior Seminar
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Synthesize work in their majors with knowledge and approaches drawn from their liberal studies education.
• Connect the course’s multidisciplinary content with their own interests and – possibly – with their post-graduation plans.
• Explain the effect of their liberal studies learning upon their intellectual development, research, or creative projects.
• Frame, plan, and carry out a substantial research project using the conventions of research and writing in their field while locating their work in the larger context of a liberal studies curriculum.
• Present findings of their research to a wider audience through oral, written, or visual means.

HON 351: Honors Senior Seminar in Community Service
Honors students who successfully complete this course will be able to –

• Exhibit an active dedication to the Vincentian mission, and use their talents to improve the lives of others through a 25-hour service commitment.
• Connect global patterns, forces, and movements with local circumstances by reflecting on their own service experiences in the context of their increasing knowledge of events and issues across several cultures.
• Demonstrate that they can serve effectively and responsibly in the service environment.
• Reflect honestly on their service experience in writing and discussion.
• Demonstrate an informed understanding of the purpose, challenges, and value of community service.
• Frame, plan, and carry out a substantial research project using the conventions of research and writing in their field while locating their work in the larger context of a service learning experience.
• Present findings of their research to a wider audience through oral, written, or visual means.

HON 395: Honors Senior Thesis
In addition to the outcomes listed for HON 350, students completing the Honors Senior Thesis will be able to:

• Propose, plan, and execute a major research project, or a creative project with a research supplement, under the supervision of two faculty advisors, drawing on ideas, arguments, and theories that have emerged in two or more fields.
• Complete extensive research, locating and evaluating a variety of sources; situate their ideas, interpretations, designs, and findings in a broad field of study; analyze
connections and disconnections between their work and existing scholarship on the topic.

- Develop a thesis statement to guide the research, adapting it as needed depending on the findings of the research process; support the thesis with substantial research from a variety of sources.
- Complete a display of the thesis findings to provide viewers with a visual representation of the project, detailing the topic, background information, research process, and findings of the thesis.
- Complete a written project that is “original” in the sense of bringing ideas together in a way that represents the student’s own contribution to the field of study.