

5 April 2018

To: Academic Policies and Priorities and Planning Councils
From: Casey C. Raymond, Acting Director, Oswego Honors Program

We are submitting a proposal to revise the Honors Program Requirements for your review and approval.

These revisions have been shared with Associate Provost Mohammadi, Provost Furlong, the Deans. The revisions received positive support from the Provost and the Deans. Additionally, the the chairs of the following departments were notified of the proposed changes and given more than 4 weeks to reply. These chairs were reminded by email to submit a reply. The informed departments were: Mathematics, Atmospheric and Geological Sciences, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, and Modern Languages and Literatures. As of 5 April the results are:

Mathematics: "...no complaint or issue with the proposal." There is a minor concern about MAT 159, but we do not believe there will be a significant affect on this course.

Chemistry: "Chemistry does not expect much impact and therefore do not oppose the changes."

Modern Languages and Literatures: "We will oppose these changes in the strongest possible terms. A more detailed letter summarizing our views will be forthcoming shortly." We have not received the more detailed letter.

Atmospheric and Geological Sciences: No response

Biological Sciences: No response

Physics: No response

The new course, HON 250 has been submitted to UCC for approval.

If you have any questions, contact me and I would be happy to speak with you about the proposal

The key features of the Oswego Honors Program Requirements are:

- Exploring the breadth of a Liberal Arts Education,
- Developing connections between disciplines,
- Challenging students to think critically outside of their discipline,
- Creating a small community within the Oswego campus

These requirements must also satisfy the SUNY General Education requirements, while not becoming overburdensome to the students.

Currently, the Honors Program requirements total 36–55 credits compared to the 30–33 credits for the Oswego General Education requirements. The potential of requiring up to 22 additional credits is not a viable long term strategy for the Honors Program. We recognize that many students come to Oswego having completed some foreign language in high school and this affects the upper credit limit for the Honors Program, however we do not have a way to track this information. If we assume that most students have completed 3–5 years of a language in high school, the typical upper limit would be 49–52 credits.

Hence we are proposing the attached revisions to the Honors Program requirements. These revisions have been discussed with former directors of the program to ensure we are in the spirit of the program’s history. We have also discussed the revisions with the Honors Student Advisory Board and Associate Provost Rameen Mohammadi. These changes are highlighted in yellow on the attached side-by-side comparison document and a summary of the changes is provided below.

1. Inclusion of a new second year seminar course, HON 250 to provide continuity between HON 150 and HON 350.
2. Revision to the Mathematics requirement—This change more closely aligns with the General Education Requirements, simplifies the requirement language, and allows the requirement to be fulfilled by any other program’s mathematics requirement. An example of the latter case is the Public Relations degree requirement for MAT 158.

Current	Proposed
MAT 106 & 206 or MAT 159 or MAT 208 or MAT 210	Any GE approved MAT course beyond MAT 103

To be specific this means any of the following courses would meet the requirement: MAT 106, 108, 158, 179, 202, 208, 210. However MAT 108 and 202 have not been taught in many years.

- Revision to the Natural Sciences requirement—This change will more closely align with Oswego General Education requirements and does not create the appearance of an over preference to the sciences. Under the current Honors requirements many students would take 3 science courses, but only one course in each of the other general education categories.

Current	Proposed
Select one, four-credit natural science course with lab OR Select two, three-credit general education approved natural science classes in two different disciplines.	Any GE approved Natural Science course

- Revision to the Foreign Language requirement—This change follows the Oswego General Education requirement for the 102-level. While we value creating global citizens, we must balance this with the other demands on students. Additionally, only one other 4-year SUNY honors program has a foreign language requirement beyond the campus general education requirement. In this one case it is a B or better in the 102-level course.

Current	Proposed
Successful completion of one language in high school through 3 or 4 years plus the same language through the MLL 202 level - OR - Successful completion of one language in high school through 3 or 4 years plus a different language through the MLL 102 level. Note: The Modern Language courses are denoted collectively by MLL	to 102-level

A check of the class of 2018 students in the honors program reveals that about 41% of the students met this requirement by completing a language to the 102 level and 33% met it to the 202 level. Of the students checked 29% met the requirement prior to attending SUNY Oswego and ~25% met the requirement in their last two years. This latter situation creates additional hardships on the students having either forgotten their previous knowledge or scheduling conflicts with upper division major requirements. For the students that withdrew from the program about one third did not meet this requirement and we believe this was a contributing factor to their withdrawal. In November 2017, we began documenting the student reported reasons for withdrawing from the Honors Program and the initial results indicate that the language requirement contributes to about one quarter of those situations.

These revisions adjust the Honors Program requirements to between 36 and 44 credits. This results in a 11 credit hour reduction in the maximum number of credits while maintaining the core features of the honors curriculum.

Oswego General Education

Current Honors

Proposed Honors

	credits= 30-35		credits= 36-55		credits= 36-44
Writing	3	HON 204	3	HON 204	3
		HON 150	1	HON 150	1
Mathematics	3-4	see below	3-8	see below	3-4
Foreign Language	0-6	2 years	0-12	same as Gen. Ed.	0-6
Natural Science	3-4	with lab or two 3-credit	4-6	same as Gen. Ed.	3-4
World Awareness	3	same as Gen. Ed.	3	same as Gen. Ed.	3
Student Choice	15				
American History		HON 141	3	HON 141	3
Western Civilization		HON 140	3	HON 140	3
		three of the four **	9	three of the four **	9
Natural Science		HON 300		HON 300	
Social & Behavioral Sciences		HON 200		HON 200	
Fine & Performing Arts		HON 201		HON 201	
Humanities		PHL 100, 205, or 220		PHL 100, 205, or 220	
World Awareness					
		** Student may only use one PHL course and are strongly encouraged not to take the course in their major area.			
Elective	0-3	HON 301	3	HON 301	3
		HON 350	1	HON 350	1
		XXX 499 (thesis)	3	XXX 499 (thesis)	3
				HON 250	1

Mathematics: MAT 106 & 206, MAT 159, MAT 208, or MAT 210

Mathematics: any GE approved MAT course beyond MAT 103

3.0 Overall GPA
3.3 in Honors Core
3.3 in Major

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3.3 in Honors Core
3.3 in Major

Areas blocked in bold lines represent differences between Honors and Oswego's General Education. The changes between the current and proposed Honors Requirements are highlighted in yellow.