THE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS PROGRAM
GUIDELINES

THE DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

OVERVIEW

The honors program provides an opportunity for exceptional Educational Studies majors to distinguish themselves by writing a thesis on an intellectual problem of importance to the discipline. Students who have demonstrated their capacity for such work are invited by the department, in the spring of their junior year, to participate in the honors program during their senior year. The honors student proposes, conducts, writes, and defends an honors thesis under the supervision of a three-member faculty committee. The thesis is evaluated by the committee, and if it is approved for some level of honors, this distinction is recorded on the student's diploma.

The Educational Studies Curriculum Committee is responsible for administering the program.

ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Educational Studies majors who have a 3.5 grade point average at the end of their junior year are eligible for consideration. From these students, the Educational Studies faculty will invite those who have demonstrated a capacity for distinguished, independent work in education to enroll in the honors program. Students, who accept the invitation, will then select a thesis topic (in consultation with faculty members) and a thesis advisor. The thesis advisor and the student will select two additional committee members from the faculty, one of whom must be from outside the department. The thesis topic and the list of committee members must be submitted to the Educational Studies Curriculum Committee.

REQUIREMENTS

1. The major requirement of the program is the successful completion of the honors thesis. Honors students will enroll for 4 credits of honors thesis in each of the fall and spring semesters of their senior year. These credits are required for the major in addition to 32 hours of regular course credit.

2. The honors student will also be required to take at least one appropriate graduate course, related to the thesis topic, and to do additional supervised reading.

3. The student must make normal progress in the program in order to continue in it. By the end of the fall semester of the senior year, the student should have completed a formal thesis proposal that describes the research problem, the conceptual framework, the related literature, and the proposed methods of study,
and should have begun the proposed research. In the spring semester, students must complete the thesis and take an oral examination on their work before the deadline stated in the College Catalog.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT'S WORK**

The student's progress will be evaluated by the thesis committee at the end of each semester. When the student completes the thesis proposal (during fall semester), the committee will meet with the student and approve or disapprove the proposal. If the proposal is accepted with no changes or minor changes, the student will proceed with the research. If the proposal is rejected, the student will be asked to withdraw from the honors program. In either event, the student will receive a grade for the semester's work. When the thesis is completed, the student will be evaluated by an oral examination before the thesis committee. The committee will either (a) approve the thesis for honors, high honors, or highest honors, or (b) not approve the thesis for honors.

Throughout this time the student will work under the close supervision of the thesis advisor. The other committee members will be involved at strategic points: the thesis proposal, the first draft of the thesis, and the oral examination of the final draft. Although there are evaluation points at which the student may be terminated from the program or may fail to receive honors, the careful selection of capable students should ensure that these outcomes rarely occur.

**INFORMATION**

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