

14 October 2019

Hello Colleagues!

As many of you are aware, the Honors Program recently instituted substantial changes to the Program requirements for a number of important reasons.

- To ensure equitable access to Honors learning, the Program shifted from hard eligibility requirements to **a holistic approach**, which potentially opens the Program to many students on campus who typically have not been eligible for Honors.
- We've simplified the Honors Program requirements, shifted from thesis to a senior capstone project (which could be a thesis), and streamlined the Program ideals: inquire, connect, transform, share.
- **It is now possible to complete the Honors Program in two years.**

As faculty and staff, we are who students turn to for guidance, especially during advising season. So, I'd like to request that you help us to promote the Honors Program to **both** new AND continuing students. I'm including a two-page description of the Program and our new requirements. I ask you to share this document with your advisees.

Actions you can take:

- Learn about the changes to the Honors Program
- Introduce the idea of Honors and share the new information with your students (new and continuing)
- For interested (but not yet enrolled Honors) students:
 - Direct them to the Honors Program website (search "Honors Program" on main BSU webpage); where they can find more information and the application form.
 - Direct them to my office (Season Ellison, Library 229, season.ellison@bemidjistate.edu) OR, direct them to Cassy Leepport (cassy.leepport@bemidjistate.edu, Library 230)
 - Or, even better, **ENROLL THEM for Spring, HOPR 1190 "Introduction to Honors" with Profs. Ellison and Leepport, W/F 2:00 – 2:50 (206238)**
 - The other Honors Program class in Spring 2020 is HOPR 3700: Honors Seminar (topic: "Science Fiction, Resource Infrastructure, and the Culture of Knowing") with Dr. Shaun Duke, MWF 3:00 – 3:50 (206192) **if they haven't taken HOPR 1190, they will need special permission from Dr. Ellison to enroll, but doing so is possible.*
- Continuing Honors Program students should take HOPR 3700: Honors Seminar (topic: "Science Fiction, Resource Infrastructure, and the Culture of Knowing") with Dr. Shaun Duke, MWF 3:00 – 3:50 (206192); if they cannot, please see Dr. Ellison to make other arrangements.
- **NOTE: students do NOT have to be members of the Honors Program to take an Honors course.** SO, if any of your advisees finds the Spring Seminar topic engaging, they may take this class as a general elective. If they have trouble enrolling, they may need permission from the Honors Director, so have them contact me if that happens.

AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS:

HOPR 3700: Honors Seminar (topic: "Science Fiction, Resource Infrastructure, and the Culture of Knowing") with Dr. Shaun Duke, MWF 3:00 – 3:50 (206192)

I know how busy we are. I truly appreciate your time engaging with this material and helping us get this information to our student community! Honors is about active learning, experimentation, finding connections between disciplines and ideas, transforming those ideas into something exciting and new, and sharing our ideas and selves with the rest of society. Should you or your advisees have questions about Honors, please contact, Dr. Season Ellison (season.ellison@bemidjistate.edu).

Season Ellison, Director, Honors Program