**DEGREE COMPLETION PLANS – TIPS FOR HONORS STUDENTS ENTERING TU FALL 2016 OR LATER**

Doing a Degree Completion Plan is particularly difficult if you are an Honors student. In addition to completing courses required for the Biology major, you must of course complete all the required core courses and a certain number of “honors courses.” More specifically:

Beyond your freshman Honors English course (Engl 190 or 290) and your Honors Towson Seminar course (Tsem 190), you need 6 credits (so two courses) of “lower-level honors coursework.” You can get these 6 credits by taking honors equivalents of core courses or other courses and/or 200-level honors seminar courses.

You also need 6 other credits worth of upper-level (300-400) honors seminar courses, so two of these courses.

The tricky part is that you don’t know for sure how many honors versions of core courses you will take. Making things even more tricky is the fact that some honors seminar courses also fulfill a core course requirement. Basically you have to guess at this at this point. In reality, when a good honors core or honors seminar course becomes available, you will take it. Even better, when an good honors seminar course comes along the will also fulfill a core, you will jump on that! You will then be updating your plan every semester.

So what to do now? On your plan you should list a certain number of each of the following types of courses, enough to meet the requirements listed above.

“Honors Seminar/Core” (Honors Seminar course that fulfills a Core requirement you need)

“Honors Seminar” (Honors Seminar course that does not fulfill a Core requirement you need)

“Honors Core” (non-seminar Honors course that fulfills a Core requirement you need)

“Regular Core” (non-Honors course that fulfills a Core requirement you need)

Honors Seminar/Cores are relatively rare so to be safe, you probably should assume you will only take 1-2 of these (if it happens you get more, terrific!) and you will take these relatively late in your undergraduate career. Schedule them for senior year.

Add in the number of Honors Seminar courses you need, perhaps putting them in junior year.

Adding Honors versions of core courses in your late sophomore and junior year, enough to meet the above requirements.

Add in the remaining number of Regular Core courses you would need. Assume Core 9 will not be an Honors course.

But wait, there’s more:

**Honors Experiential and Advanced Learning (EAL) Credits**

You also need to include 6 Honors EAL credits on your plan. This is difficult, too, because you do not know how and when you will get elective credit. There are a multitude of ways to get elective credit including:

* Go on a Study Abroad program (get 3 or 6 credits depending on length of trip and no. of classes taken)
* Do an internship and take BIOL or HONR 493 Honors Internship (3 credits)
* HONR 497 Honors Independent Investigation/Research (3 credits)
* HONR 499 Honors Thesis (3 credits)
* Take extra upper-level Honors Seminar courses for 3 credits each

*continued…*

*Notes:*

1. You can combine credits earned in different options to total 6 (e.g., can earn 3 credits from Study Abroad and 3 credits from Internship, etc.).

2. If doing research or an internship, you can do the “work” in the summer and take credit for it in the following fall or spring semesters.

3. Doing an Honors thesis is rare, but if one does it, one typically takes HONR 497 in one semester and HONR 499 in a subsequent semester.

**What to do on your plan?** If you are quite certain of what you will do and when you can indicate that on your plan. For example, you could do something like one the following:







Somehow you need to make it clear how you are gaining your 6 required EAL credits.

Alternatively, if you are UNCERTAIN at this point of what you will be doing to get Honors Elective credits, you may simply do something like this for your senior year:



You can and should consult with the faculty member helping you develop the plan about how to include Honors requirements. Sorry this is so complicated!