Health And Sport Studies Department Honors

Introduction:

Departmental Honors in Health and Sport Studies is a program designed to honor some of our best students who have achieved excellence in the classroom, particularly research-related work. Departmental Honors in Health and Sport Studies are separate from the University Honors Program, although the research component for Departmental Honors may fulfill the research requirement for University Honors. Students are NOT required to be a member of the University Honors Program to complete Departmental Honors in Health and Sport Studies.

Health and Sport Studies (EXSC or SPMG) Departmental Honors Qualifications:

1. A minimum of five EXSC or five SPMG courses completed by the end of the junior year.
2. HSS and cumulative grade point averages of 3.50 or higher
3. Completion of honors thesis that meets the specifications of the thesis committee

Note: Acceptance into the program does not guarantee graduating with Departmental Honors.

Timeline and Process for completing Departmental Honors

1. March of Junior Year: Qualified students need to consult with and identify a Faculty Supervisor for the honors thesis project. This person must be a current faculty member in the Health and Sport Studies Department. The Faculty Supervisor will help the student:
    - Develop a proposal for a project of appropriate scope and depth to qualify for departmental honors.
    - Choose the appropriate number of EXSC 499 or SPMG 499 credits in which to enroll.
    - Oversee the research project.

    The Faculty Supervisor will also notify the HSS Department Chair of the student's intention to pursue departmental honors.
2. By May of Junior Year: Qualified students should:
    - Receive approval from the Faculty Supervisor to move forward with the project.
    - Create an Honors Thesis Committee. After the honors project has been approved, students will need to choose two committee members in addition to your Research Advisor; one from the Health and Sport Studies Department and one from outside the Health and Sport Studies Department. This committee supervises and periodically checks the progress of the student's research and evaluates the final paper and the oral defense of the project. The Faculty Supervisor will serve as the Committee Chairperson.
3. During the semester(s) enrolled in EXSC 499 or SPMG 499 (senior year):
    - Submit the EXSC 499 or SPMG 499 Honors Thesis registration paperwork for 1-4 credits no later than the Friday of the first week of classes. All approval signatures should be included and registration form should be sent to the University Honors Program for final approval. The university Honors Program will forward the registration to the Office of the Registrar.
    - Mid-Term assessment meeting: Honors thesis students will participate in a mid-term assessment meeting with the Faculty Supervisor no later than the 8th week of the semester the thesis is scheduled to be completed. After the mid-term assessment meeting a decision will be made whether to continue with a honors

thesis (EXSC 499 or SPMG 499) or to convert the thesis to an independent study (EXSC 490 or SPMG 490).

- Final draft of Honors Thesis to committee members for review (senior year): Over the course of the semester, students will write a comprehensive Honors Thesis based on the research project developed with the Faculty Supervisor. Copies of the thesis are distributed to the Honors Thesis Committee for review. The exact thesis submission date will be at the discretion of the Committee Chairperson in consultation with the student and the other Thesis Committee members but will fall no later than 1-week prior April 15th.
- Honors defense: The oral defense of the Honor's Thesis to the Honors Thesis Committee will occur no later than April 15th on a date/time set by the Thesis Committee Chairperson in consultation with the student. The defense typically includes a 20-30 minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the research to the committee and others in attendance. Following the presentation, committee members will ask the student questions about the research for approximately 20 minutes. Typically, the Honors Thesis Committee has revisions or edits to the thesis following the defense. The final copy of the thesis is due to the Thesis Committee Chairperson by the last day of classes the semester it is completed. An electronic copy of the final copy of the Honors thesis should also be submitted to the Wittenberg library for the university's online thesis archives.

4. After satisfactory completion of the above criteria, the Honors Thesis Committee will decide the grade for EXSC 499 or SPMG 499 as well as if the student has earned Departmental Honors. If the committee decides that the quality of the work does not reach the threshold for awarding Departmental Honors, they will convert the EXSC 499 or SPMG 499 (Honors Thesis) into a EXSC 490 or SPMG 490 (Independent Study). The Faculty Supervisor will inform the Health and Sport Studies Department Chairperson if the student earned Departmental Honors. The HSS Department Chairperson will then instruct the University Registrar to note "Departmental Honors in Health and Sport Studies" on the student's permanent transcript. If the student is a member of the University Honors Program, the Health and Sport Studies Chairperson will notify the University Honors Program that the student has satisfactorily completed the Honors Thesis requirement for University Honors.