DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Admission

Students apply to the Department Honors Program by completing the Department Honors Application. Normally, students should apply in their junior year, but admission must be approved no later than the beginning of the senior year. The Departmental Honors Program is distinct from the University Honors Program and Baccalaureate Honors that are described in the UNM Catalog.

Requirements

Following UNM guidelines in the UNM catalog, the minimum requirements to qualify for Departmental Honors are:
(a) an overall grade point average of 3.20
(b) not less than 6 credit hours in NE 495/496 (Nuclear Engineering Honors Problems I and II), typically completed over two or more semesters. The required six credit hours are above the minimum 124 hours required for the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering (BSNE) degree program

In the Department of Nuclear Engineering, the culmination of the Honors Problems classes is expected to be a manuscript or senior thesis based on the Honors project. In addition, a short memo proposal outlining the Honors project is expected as part of the Department Honors Application, and a progress report is expected at the end of every semester enrolled in NE 495/496 (except the final semester, when the final senior thesis or manuscript is expected). The student is responsible for arranging the project with a faculty member prior to admission to the Department Honors Program. The supervising faculty member, who will be consulted by the Department Chair on approval of the proposed project, and on evaluation of the project deliverables.

Level of Honors

The level of honors is determined by the Department Chair, and is based on the grade point average (GPA) in the courses applied toward the degree at completion of the semester preceding graduation. For a typical acceptable Honors project, the following guidelines with regard to GPA would be employed.

GPA: 3.20 – 3.49 cum laude
GPA: 3.50 – 3.79 magna cum laude
GPA: 3.80 – 4.00 summa cum laude

The Office of the Registrar will be notified of successful completion of the departmental honors program so that the honors may appear on the student’s academic record and diploma.
DEPARTMENTAL HONORS APPLICATION

Admission to the Department Honors Program is not automatic. The minimum university requirements must be met, the Departmental Honors Application must be approved by the Department Chair, and proposed Honors project must be approved by the Chair and the Faculty Advisor.

NAME ___________________________ UNM ID# _____________________

CONCENTRATION ____________________________

1. Grade Point Average

   UNM GPA ______________ Degree GPA ______________

2. Faculty Advisor for Honors Project: ____________________________________________

3. Project Memo Proposal
   Attached to this form should be a 1-2 page memo that outlines a proposal for the Honors Project. An example of such a memo proposal can be obtained from the Department Chair. The primary elements that should be included are summarized below. The memo should have space for signature for the student, faculty advisor, and Chair. This memo will constitute an informal contract for the expectations in the project. Adjustments to the proposed scope and timing of work can be made in subsequent progress reports.

   - Title of the project
   - Faculty Advisor(s)
   - Brief description of broad overall goal(s) of the project and the motivation or need for the work.
   - Semester by semester plan that addresses:
     o Number of NE 495/496 credits that will be enrolled in
     o Approximate hours per week that student anticipates being available to work over the course of the semester (should be commensurate with the number of credits)
     o Major tasks or activities that are planned for that semester. Student should be thinking about whether the activity plan is consistent with the time they have available. Plan over the course of the entire project should lead to reasonable closure of the project according to the stated overall goals of the project, and should include time to prepare the final report/manuscript.

Admission to Department Honors Program Approved by Department Chair

Dept Chair Signature ___________________________ Date ______________