

## **Interdisciplinary Studies Honors Track—Creative or Research Thesis and Portfolio Options**

The Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) Honors track is designed to provide our most talented and highly motivated students with an opportunity to excel in their particular IS track, including an opportunity to take graduate level courses and conduct original research with the guidance of faculty members within their chosen pathway. Honors benefits IS students through close faculty mentorship, capstone experiences that lend to career-readiness or graduate/professional studies, and eligibility for scholarships.

An IS major wishing to pursue Honors will undertake a rigorous, sustained research project mentored by faculty. IS majors must also meet all of the other requirements for the IS degree. Because of the individualized nature of the IS major, all IS Honors students are required to consult with their IS and Honors advisors every semester.

IS students who participate in Honors can take advantage of some of the courses offered in Honors that emphasize interdisciplinary approaches (HON 101, HON 291, HON 491). They can also take courses that enhance their understanding of public policy and civic engagement, and gain leadership skills that are critical in all fields of study (HON 301, and 303).

IS students who joined the Honors Program in their freshman year and who have completed the 2 HON and 1 A section requirement may continue on to the Upper Division Honors journey upon the approval of their IS advisor (through the completion of the Departmental Approval Form on Mākālei). The HON 491 course requirement is waived for these students and they may proceed to coursework or independent study toward the Senior Honors Project after meeting with the Honors director to consult on their plans.

Sophomore and Junior IS majors not previously in Honors, but who desire to apply to and enter the Honors program for an Upper-Division Honors Designation (a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies with Honors) must first declare and be accepted into the IS undergraduate major, then apply to the Honors Upper Division program AFTER consultation with the IS undergraduate advisor.

Applications to the UHM Honors program are online, via the Honors website. An interview is required.

- Students will need to generate the departmental approval form (on Honors Mākālei Program checklist) to the WS undergraduate advisor for their completion
- Students must have a minimum 3.2 GPA and the support of the IS program.

IS students entering Honors as Upper Division students (not as freshmen) are **required** to take the following courses and fulfill the following requirements:

- HON 491 (Junior Seminar) or a graduate course approved by IS (600-level) (3 credits)

All IS students, upon the end of their junior year must submit

- a 10-12 page proposal for the Senior Honors Project in IS, accompanied by a signed proposal/mentor form (via the Mākālei system)
  - We recommend taking a course designed to help students with the Senior Honors project proposal writing, such as HON 495 Introduction to Research (for thesis option) or HON 499 (for portfolio option). Student may also opt to write the Seniors Honors project proposal with their mentors, or through a similar course in their IS curriculum.

In the final two semesters of their coursework Honors IS students must take:

- HON 494 Honors Workshop (zero credits): the companion workshop for the first semester of HON 496 or a 499 with their faculty mentor. It is designed to familiarize students with the protocol for independent study with their Faculty mentor, criteria and timeline for the Senior Honors Project, and requires students to submit a detailed plan of research for their HON 496/mentor 499 work.
  
- HON 496 OR 499 with their mentor, or a combination of these courses totaling 6 credits over the two semesters toward work on research and writing of IS Honors thesis or portfolio.

All Honors students present their work at the Undergraduate Showcase, and submit their final Senior Honors project, CV, and a short personal essay to Honors (via Mākālei) in their concluding semester.