First-Year Honors Program
Degree Program Assignment

Part One of the assignment, the Degree Program Assignment, focuses on the development of an actual course plan. Aside from your Resume 2023 assignment, other resources in deciding a major and appropriate courses include career interest inventories (through the Student Counseling Service); students enrolled in the major in which you are interested; faculty members who teach courses in the department of your chosen major; or professionals who are working in the career area of your choice. Together, these resources will help you evaluate how your interests, abilities, and skills will work together.

Completing this assignment requires thought and research on your part. It is not something that can be completed the night before it is due. However, if your time is used efficiently, the workload will not be overwhelming and the final product will be extremely helpful to you throughout your years at Iowa State. As you complete this assignment, you will need to meet with your advisor to review it before turning it in on October 30/31. Your advisor should sign your Degree Program Assignment Grid Sheet to indicate they have reviewed your assignment.

Objectives:
• To help you take charge of your own education (make the most of your education!)
• To initiate valuable communication between you and your academic advisor
• To aid you in personalizing your Program of Study – this assignment IS NOT your Program of Study, but mimics what you’ll eventually have to submit for your Program of Study
• To raise your awareness of resources (human, written, electronic) available to you
• To encourage you to consider the educational contribution/purpose of each course/decision/experience
• To encourage you to consider the placement of experiential and/or international experiences in your program
• To prepare you for the registration process that you will go through each semester

Materials you will need to get started:
• Honors guidelines for your college: https://www.honors.iastate.edu/program/uhp/college-reqs
• Specifically, know your depth and breadth requirements if you are in:
  o Ivy College of Business: check your Business Honors Canvas under “Ivy Honors Requirements” section
• Online Courses and Programs Catalog available on the web: http://catalog.iastate.edu/
• Grid Sheet (available on Honors Webpage): https://www.honors.iastate.edu/fhp/forms.php
• Degree Audit: found on Access Plus
• Course planning guidelines for your major: found on your department’s web site

All Honors students need to include:
• 2 Honors courses: this does not include English 250H or Hon 290H but DOES include other Honors courses you take this year. Check your college’s specific requirements for more information (ie, Human Sciences students have to take one Honors course in their major, and one outside of their major)
• 2 Honors seminars: upper division seminars such as Hon 321 (not Hon 121)
• Honors project credit the semester you’re doing your project: Hon 490H (credits vary – you can choose!)
Making this plan work for you

Every major has minimal requirements for graduation. This minimum should be achievable by the “average” student. You are a member of the First-Year Honors Program because you are well above average; in fact, you are in the top echelon of the first-year class. You are in a wonderful position to individualize your education, taking advantage of the flexibility Honors provides and being aware of the opportunities available to you.

Keeping all of this in mind, think about the following questions as you work on the degree program assignment:

1) What courses are required for your major, e.g., specifically by your major department?

2) What kind of choices are you able to make within your major? Which courses would you take to explore these choices?

3) Are you required to take courses in departments outside your major?

4) What are the General Education requirements for your college?

5) Are you considering a minor? If so, in what area and what courses will you need to take? (Be sure to look at requirements in your major and specific minor.)

6) As an ISU student, you have many opportunities for international experience (study abroad, work abroad, summer programs, travel, etc.). At this point in your academic career, which experience sounds the most appealing and/or most beneficial?

7) Opportunities for research involvement abound at ISU and through summer programs at other institutions. These are wonderful ways to network and can make you very marketable for graduate school or your first job. How might you take advantage of such opportunities?

8) How many credits did you bring with you to ISU, e.g., AP, transfer, test-out? How might you use this jump start to your advantage? Examples could include studying abroad, a second major, time for internship, extracurricular involvement, more choice in electives, etc.

9) Review your college’s requirements for graduation in the University Honors Program. How will you engage in Honors over the upcoming semesters? How do your Honors requirements fit in with your program?

Resources

- College Career Services Office
- Academic Advisor, Faculty, Honors Staff
- Honors 121 Leader
- A mentor/role model
- Online career sites

In order to receive credit for your Degree Program Assignment, you must:

1. Submit a typed Grid Sheet with advisor signature (make sure you do the engineering form if you’re an engineering student!)

2. Include your College Honors Requirements in your coursework listed on the Grid Sheet

3. Turn in the assignment on October 30/31

THIS ASSIGNMENT (PART ONE) IS DUE IN YOUR HON 121 CLASS ON OCTOBER 30/31