Steps towards Honors in the Department of Physics and Astronomy



Getting Honors in The Department of Physics and Astronomy is straightforward. Here are the steps you need to take to make things go smoothly

Step One: Declare Your Interest in Honors in Physics or Astronomy

- ☐ Meet with your academic or faculty advisor and let them know that you wish to declare an Interest in Honors for Physics or Astronomy. From here your advisor will use Maui to create a new active program of study for you.
- ☐ At this stage you do not have to have met any of the Honor in Physics and Astronomy standards. However, you must be a Physics and/or Astronomy major.
- ☐ The Interest in Honors in Physics and Astronomy can be removed anytime you have a change of heart. If you drop the Physics or Astronomy major, the Interest will be automatically dropped.
- ☐ You may declare Interest in Physics or Astronomy or both. However, you will only graduate with Honors in Physics or Honors in Astronomy

Step Two: Pursuing Honors

- ☐ Your advisor will begin tracking your progress through Honors in Physics and/or Astronomy. Once you meet the GPA requirements for Honors in Physics or Astronomy your advisor will change your status from "Interest" to "Pursuing". You do not, at this stage need to have completed all your course work or research. Now is a good time to begin looking for research advisors and research topics.
- ☐ You can be Pursuing for several years while you matriculate towards your degree.
- ☐ Your advisor can remove the Pursuing status as needed and Pursuing as well as Interest will be dropped if you are no longer declaring at least Physics or Astronomy as a major.

Step Three: Application for Graduation

- ☐ By the time you apply for graduation you will already have identified a research advisor and research topic. You will need to **verify on the application if all the Honors requirements will be completed during the semester of graduation.**
- ☐ At this time your advisor will evaluate your standing and must move your status to "Initial Approval". This guarantees that Honors in Physics or Astronomy will be included with your name in the Commencement Program.

Step Four: Finalizing

- ☐ Fulfill all the other requirements such as writing the thesis, presenting to faculty and maintaining the GPA >3.33.
- ☐ Have your research advisor review your thesis.
- ☐ Have your thesis approved by the Faculty Honors Advisor, Professor Markus Wohlgenannt, markus-wohlgenannt@uiowa.edu.

Step Five:

☐ After you have the final approval from Professor Wohlgenannt, the Honors Student Coordinator, Cori Langfitt, will move your status to "Final Approval" and you will be awarded Honors in Physics or Honors in Astronomy (cori-langfitt@uiowa.edu).
If you wish to be recognized with Honors at the Convocation and have your name in the Convocation publication, you must already have "Pursuing Honors in the Major" by the deadline for degree application in the semester you plan to graduate. These dates are typically:

- **First week of June for Summer Graduation**
- **Last week of September for Fall Graduation**
- **Middle week of February for Spring Graduation**

☐ If you have still not met all the criteria for Honors in Physics or Astronomy, your status will not be changed to Final Approval and you will NOT earn Honors in Physics or Astronomy.

☐ After Final Approval, pick up your Honors cord from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Rm. 120 SH.

☐ Enjoy being an Honors Student from the Department of Physics and Astronomy!