Guide for Honors Program Students  
(Updated April 2011)  

Admission Criteria  

Entering First Years:  

Students with demonstrated records of outstanding achievement are considered for admission to the Honors Program upon admission to the college. Students accepted into the Program generally have distinguished themselves in the following areas: academic achievement (as demonstrated by minimum unweighted GPA of 3.5 and SAT combined Math and Verbal scores of 1160 or ACT 26); intellectual curiosity; leadership; and commitment to service. In evaluating each applicant, the Honors Program Committee considers her academic record, commitment to her own intellectual development, involvement in extra-curricular activities, the level of her high school courses, and the teacher's recommendation.

Rising Sophomores:  

Must have at least a 3.5 GPA during first year of college work completed. Must submit Rising sophomore application form (available in Honors program Office, Giles 103), letters of recommendation from two Spelman faculty members in support of her candidacy for the Honors Program (deadline May 15). Transfer students must contact Director and submit application form and supporting materials as well.

Continuation in Program  

Students may continue to participate in the Program as long as they enroll for at least 12 semester hours and maintain the following annual (not cumulative) grade point averages each academic year:  
First Year and Sophomore  
3.10  
Junior and Senior  
3.20  

Students will be withdrawn from the Honors Program if they fail to meet the required grade point average at the end of an academic year or receive a grade of "F" in any course. Students who wish to withdraw voluntarily from the Program may do so by notifying the Director in writing.
Honors Program Curriculum

The Honors Program curriculum consists of seven Honors Program courses and seminars: five required courses and two electives. All Honors Program courses and seminars fulfill College core curriculum or graduation requirements.

All Honors Program students are required to take the following courses:

ENG 193
MATH 193
PHIL 191
Honors Thesis Research
Two Honors elective courses

ENG 193 – HONORS FIRST-YEAR COMPOSITION (4)
A spectrum of writing experiences from analysis to argument to criticism. Emphasis on readings and extended research from literature and nonfiction prose that focus on race and gender issues.

MATH 193 – HONORS MATH (3)
A rigorous introduction to mathematical ideas. Examination of topics selected from the following: set theory, logic, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices, linear programming, trigonometric functions, mathematical induction, probability, and statistics. Applications of selected topics. Requirements: Independent study papers or projects.

PHI 191 – HONORS PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR (4)
An introduction to ancient and modern philosophy. Designed to be intensive. Critical study of six of Plato’s Dialogues (representing the ancient) and Descartes’ Meditations on First Philosophy (representing the modern).

HONORS THESIS RESEARCH (8)
Departmentally supervised research.

HONORS ELECTIVES(8): A wide range of Honors electives across disciplines challenge and engage students. These electives are seminar based courses specially designed by leading Spelman faculty. They are characterized as rigorous, writing and critical thinking intensive,
interdisciplinary in content and/or approaches, as well as international or global in scope.

**Recommended Four Year Plan***

**First Year**
At least 2 required Honors core courses
Fall: one required Honors core course in the fall (Honors Math 193 or Honors English 193). Spring: one required Honors core course in the spring (Honors Math 193 or Honors English 193) (Honors Core courses also fulfill general education and distribution requirements)
If placed in higher level Math (Placement Test result) or exempted from Math or English, take Honors Philosophy 191 either in fall or spring.

Co-Curricular Activities: First Year Honors Retreat is a required activity. If documented evidence of an official excuse is provided, student can complete an alternative assignment (see Director). Students who do not attend the Retreat or complete the alternative activity will be removed from the Honors Program.

Students are encouraged to participate in Speaker events, Reading Discussions and other Honors sponsored events. Meet with Director and first year Advisor in spring semester to review first year participation in co-curricular activities.
These records will be kept for Director’s recommendations and will be shared with Honors faculty for purposes of recommendations for scholarships, internships, graduate programs, etc.

**Second Year**
At least 2 required Honors courses
Fall: Take one required Honors core course (Honors Philosophy 191) or an Honors Elective (see Honors Program Office for Electives List), at the 200 or 300 level (check with Director)
Spring: Take second required Honors Elective (see Honors Program Office for Electives List), at the 200 or 300 level (check with Director)

Additional preparation in spring semester: If planning on Study Abroad in fall of Third Year (or full Junior year), identify Senior Thesis Advisor in your Major, meet with Thesis Advisor and set up schedule for getting started with research and plan for Thesis process

Co-Curricular Activities: Students must meet with Honors Director and Advisor at least once per semester to discuss progress, interests and evidence of at least one event participation. These records will be kept for Director’s recommendations and will be shared with Honors faculty for
purposes of recommendations for scholarships, internships, graduate programs, etc.

Third Year
Fall:  -Finish up any lower-division Honors course requirements that remain.
      -Take the second Honors Elective (see Honors Program Office for Electives list)
      -Begin the Honors Senior Thesis planning (Note: Majors in Psychology MUST apply for and enroll in PSY 308 in the spring of their third year—see dept. chair)
Spring: -Identify Thesis Advisor and Get started with Thesis plan/readings
       (either fall or spring semester, as advised by dept. chair; see also Honors Director)
       -Register and take first of the Honors Senior Thesis sequence of courses-designated as Honors 491 in most departments (see Dept chair and Honors Director)

Co-Curricular Activities: Students must meet with Honors Director and Advisor at least once per semester to discuss progress, interests and evidence of at least one event participation. These records will be kept for Director’s recommendations and will be shared with Honors faculty for purposes of recommendations for scholarships, internships, graduate programs, etc.

Fourth Year
Fall:  -Meet at least twice with Honors Director (Thesis Progress Report and Transcript Review meetings)
      -Finish up any Elective requirements that remain.
      -Register and take Honors Senior Thesis (first of the course sequence), Honors 491 in most depts or if taken an equivalent in Third year, register for second course in the sequence, designated as Honors 492 in most departments or equivalent (see Dept. chair and Honors Director)
      -Submit Honors Thesis Proposal Registration form signed by Thesis Advisor and Dept. Chair by Oct 15 deadline (see Senior Thesis Guidelines packet available in Honors Office). THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED

Spring: -Register for Honors Thesis (second of the course sequence), Honors 492 in most depts. or see chair for equivalent course)
      -Meet twice with Honors Director (progress Report and Transcript Review meetings)
      -Complete and submit Honors Thesis to Thesis Advisor, Dept. Chair and final revised and bound copy (upon approval of Advisor and Chair) to the Honors Program Office (follow deadlines for submission to Thesis Advisor, Dept. Chair and Honors Office as indicated in the Thesis Guideline packet). The Bound Thesis must follow the Guidelines
and must be accompanied with the **Final Thesis form and a copy of the transcript** and submitted to Honors office by **May 1st**.

**Co-Curricular Activities**: Students must meet with Honors Director and Advisor at least once per semester to discuss progress, interests and evidence of at least one event participation and one conference/Research day presentation in Fourth year. During spring semester, meet with Director to review overall co-curricular participation. These records will be kept for Director’s recommendations and will be shared with Honors faculty for purposes of recommendations for scholarships, post-graduate fellowships, graduate or professional programs.

*This plan is a **recommendation** to help you fulfill your Honors requirements. Discuss any modifications to the plan and other alternatives with the Honors Program Director and your advisor.*