

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
CALL FOR INSTRUCTORS
Revitalization of Honors in Research Program

Important Dates

- Interest Form Submission Deadline: October 5, 2016
- Notification of Participation: mid-October, 2016
- Possible Starting Semester: Fall 2017

Funding Overview

The CALS Honors Program includes the popular Honors in Research option, a unique research-oriented Honors track. The purpose of the program is to facilitate quality hands-on research experience for students, a value explicit in the CALS Vital Signs. The program provides opportunities for highly motivated students to become involved with research beginning their freshman year, allows students to develop a collaborative relationship with a faculty member at our world-class research institution, challenges students to develop critical thinking skills and problem solving abilities, and prepares students to develop and implement an independent research project.

The CALS Honors Program was last reviewed in 2008-09 as part of a campus-wide assessment of Honors. In this review, the Honors in Research option in particular was highlighted as a signature CALS experience, with students in the program distinct from other Honors students in demographics, motivations, and expectations about their experience. “In general, CALS Honors students were more satisfied with their program than students in other college’s Honors programs. 69.2% of CALS students reported having their expectations met, while the proportion reporting to have their expectations met in Engineering and L&S was 58%...90% responded that they would recommend the program to others.”¹ Since this review occurred, the program has faced key faculty departures and staff turnover that have led to a significant need to revitalize the program. The core academic credits for the program, apart from the senior thesis credits, have not been offered in over four semesters due to a lack of instructional support. The CALS Strategic Plan, however, emphasizes the value of small, hands-on, experiential learning experiences for our students, especially for the highly motivated Honors population.

Funding is now available to support a multi-disciplinary, cross-department team in the development and delivery of a revitalized Honors in Research program. We are seeking 3-5 faculty or instructional staff from the college with an interest in revising the 3 existing but dormant Honors in Research courses: Inter-Ag 288, 388, and 488. Funding may support instructor salary, a teaching assistant (for course development activities), and/or course development supplies and expenses.

¹ University of Wisconsin Honors Programs: An Assessment of the Undergraduate Experience, pg. 12

Eligibility & Submission of Interest

Any current CALS faculty or instructional academic staff may be nominated or self-nominate to participate as an instructor by completing [this form](#) by **Wednesday, October 5, 2016**.

Nominated individuals will be invited to a meeting to discuss the current status of the Honors in Research courses, evaluate possibilities, and review existing information and resources to support course development.

The Office of Academic Affairs will select final participants based on interest, previous experience with Honors curriculum or working with Honors students, and ensuring broad representation from the college.

Questions

Please contact Nikki Bollig, CALS Honors Dean, at nikki.bollig@wisc.edu or 608-262-3105.