Wright State University

College of Education
and Human Services

Department of Leadership Studies in
Education and Organizations

HONORS HANDBOOK

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM
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Introduction

The Organizational Leadership Departmental Honors Scholar designation is awarded through the University Honors Program. This option provides students who have achieved excellence in their academic program, the opportunity to expand and enhance their knowledge and/or skills in the field of leadership. Students will engage in a guided research project or paper under the guidance of a faculty advisor.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

Must be admitted to the Organizational Leadership major
Must have completed OL 2010, 3020, 3030, 3040 courses prior to beginning the project
Must have a university cumulative GPA of 3.25
Must have an OL cumulative GPA of 3.85

*Students typically take two semesters to complete the Honors Project and must apply the semester prior to starting the project. For example, to complete an Honors Project in the Fall and Spring semesters of one’s senior year, the student would need to apply by March 1, 6 months prior to the start of the project, during his or her junior year.

Application Deadlines

For application for Fall semester, apply by March 1.
For application for Spring semester, apply by October 1.
For application for Summer session, apply by February 1.
*Application deadline for Fall 2016 will be July 1, 2016.

Application Check List

1. Complete the attached application and submit by email to Dr. Corey Seemiller, the Honors Coordinator at corey.seemiller@wright.edu.
2. Contact Ms. Julia Acosta in the Department of Leadership Studies to schedule your writing evaluation, which will consist of a 30-minute timed in-person writing sample.

Both the application and the writing sample must be complete by the application deadline.

After Acceptance

Once the application and writing sample have been reviewed, a decision by the Honors Coordinator and faculty will be made. Students accepted for the Honors Project will asked to set up a meeting with the Honors Coordinator to discuss potential areas of interest to determine a match for a Faculty Honors Advisor.
Honors Coordinator and Honors Advisor

The OL Honors Coordinator in the Department of Leadership Studies will oversee the honors process and approve all honors projects. This individual, in concert with student’s Faculty Honors Advisor, will be responsible for reviewing applications and assessing final projects for honors completion. Based on a student’s area of interest for an honors project, the Honors Coordinator will select a Faculty Honors Advisor with whom the student will work. Both the Honors Coordinator and the Faculty Honors Advisor must be fully affiliated faculty members of the Organizational Leadership program.

Program Requirements, Options, and Timeline

Working under the guidance of a Faculty Honor Advisor, students will complete an honors research project or paper, which may deal with any topic or problem related to leadership. All students who will participate in an Organizational Leadership (OL) Honors Project will be required to complete three credit hours of OL 4990 (a variable credit hour course, one to three credit hours) with a grade of “A” to receive the honors designation. To benefit the student’s course load, those three credit hours may all be taken in one semester, or may be apportioned over two consecutive semesters, but no longer than two semesters. Students who choose the latter option will receive an “I” grade until the project is completed; upon completion of the project, the “I” grade will be changed to the final grade for the project. (If a grade of “B” or “C” is earned, the student will receive course credit only.) The OL 4990 final course (completion of the honors project) will culminate in an open-forum presentation of the research project or paper.

The OL Honors Project will be a theoretically based research project with an average length of 25 pages. Examples of the types of projects in which students might engage include: defining a specific research question and providing a comprehensive literature review; identifying and examining a work-based problem/issue (at a specific organization) and research the theoretical underpinnings that inform the organization’s decision making regarding that problem/issue; or creating a leadership training program to address a specific organizational challenge, based on existing research and organizational need.

The prospective honors student must contact the Honors Coordinator the semester prior to the anticipated project, typically prior to the last semester of the junior year. The honors project or paper may be completed in the course of one or two semesters and must be completed prior to graduation. The departmental Honors Coordinator and the Faculty Honors Advisor will determine if the student has met the criteria for completion of the honors project.

Evaluation

In order to graduate with an Organizational Leadership Departmental Honors Scholar designation, at the time of graduation the student must present: An overall cumulative average of 3.25; a cumulative average of 3.75 in professional content courses; and an honors project evaluated with a grade of “A”.
Faculty Bios and Areas of Interest

Dr. Scott Graham is a retired Lt Col from the United States Air Force, where he flew B-52s, and then became a leadership and quality improvement trainer, faculty and consultant. Scott earned his Ph.D. in Management from The University of Georgia, and his M.S. in Logistics Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. Scott is currently an Associate Professor of Leadership at Wright State University. He also serves as the Director of The Ohio State University Leadership Academy for Peak Performance. Dr. Graham brings over 30 years of leadership teaching consulting, training, coaching, speaking and research experience to every organizational challenge. He has been president of the regional chapter of the American Society of Training and Development, and has been invited to present his work at the Association of Leadership Educators and the International Leadership Association.

Brenda Kraner (OL Program Director) is a learning and performance professional with over 23 years of experience improving individual and organizational performance. Through assessment, development, and evaluation, Brenda enables others to realize their full potential and optimize their performance and productivity in the workplace. Her clients represent manufacturing, municipalities, education, banking, and the healthcare industry. Brenda serves as a Lecturer in the Organizational Leadership (OL) undergraduate program at Wright State University. She also serves as the Director for Internships within OL and is the Assistant to the Chair in Leadership Studies. She received her B.A. in Psychology from Otterbein University and her M.A. in Applied Behavioral Science from Wright State University. She is a PhD candidate at the Ohio State University in the field of Workforce Development and Education researching the topic of employee engagement. She is a member of ATD (Association for Talent Development), AHRD (Academy for Human Resource Development), ILA (International Leadership Association), and AOM (Academy of Management).

Dr. Mindy S. McNutt is an Associate Professor of Leadership and has served as Program Director for both the Organizational Leadership (OL) and the Master of Science in Leadership Development (MSLD) programs at the Wright State Dayton campus and was the inaugural and sole faculty member and program advisor for the OL program at its inception at the Wright State Lake Campus. Dr. McNutt currently teaches in all three leadership programs, OL, MSLD, and the recently created doctorate in Organizational Studies. She has engaged in leadership curriculum development for over 30 years, and has served as both a faculty member and executive-level college and university administrator since 2000. Among her varied research interests are leadership education, transformational leadership, women in leadership, and leader values. Her recent involvement includes three projects of significance: she served as an Associate Editor for the book entitled LEADERSHIP 2050: Critical Challenges, Key Contexts, and Emerging Trends (2015); she collaborated with a team of 10 nationally recognized leadership educators to create the first Leadership Education Academy, which was held in August, 2015; and she is currently engaging in research to assess and examine the relationship between personal values and organizational culture.
Dr. Dan Noel has degrees in psychology, counseling, and leadership. Dan Noel is passionate about coaching and mentoring those who desire to become effective leaders. His career paths have landed consistently in non-profit roles including pastoral ministry, licensed counselor, community agency director, consulting and administrative and faculty roles in higher education. He has taught in the college classroom since the early 1990’s, providing guidance in the areas of leadership and leadership development. He has published research in the areas of leadership and spirituality, and audience engagement using mobile-based technologies. He has been a presenter at regional and international conferences, and has facilitated training for many organizational groups. He currently serves as a member of the full-time faculty of Organizational Leadership at Wright State University. He has also directed Community-Based Learning, providing supervision for over 200 students who served at various non-profit organizations throughout the Miami Valley and beyond. He resides in Springboro, Ohio, with his wife Amy and three teenage sons.

Dr. Corey Seemiller received her Bachelor’s degree in Communication, Master’s degree in Educational Leadership, and Ph.D. in Higher Education. She has worked as a leadership educator for higher education, K-12, non-profits, military, and in the community for more than 20 years. Prior to her role as Assistant Professor in Leadership Studies at Wright State University, Dr. Seemiller served as the Director of Leadership Programs and adjunct faculty/coordinator for the Minor in Leadership Studies and Practice at the University of Arizona and the Director of Leadership, Learning, and Assessment at OrgSync, Inc. She has taught courses on foundations of leadership, global leadership, social justice leadership, critical perspectives on leadership, developing leadership capacity, emotional intelligence, organizational leadership, research methods, and leadership for social change. Dr. Seemiller is also a dedicated scholar publishing and presenting nationally and internationally on issues related to leadership. She is the author of The Student Leadership Competencies Guidebook and associated measurements and tools to help educators develop intentional curriculum that enhances leadership competency development and Generation Z Goes to College, which focuses on preparing college educators to best serve and develop Generation Z students.
APPLICATION FORM

Organizational Leadership – Departmental Honors Scholar
Email completed form to Dr. Corey Seemiller at corey.seemiller@wright.edu
Due March 1 for Fall, October 1 for Spring, and February 1 for Summer
*Due July 1 for Fall 2016 only

Date ______________________
Name _________________________________ UID ______________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
City ________________________________ State ________ ZIP ________
Phone ______________________ Email _________________________________@wright.edu

Expected date of graduation __________________________________________________________________

Cumulative GPA for all courses ________ Cumulative GPA for all OL courses ___________

Honors Project Advisor Preferences (please list 3 choices) _______________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Description of the Proposed Honors Project _____________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Timeline for Project Completion _________________________________________________

Date Writing Sample Scheduled For (contact Ms. Julia Acosta at julia.acosta@wright.edu) _____________

Department use only

Date writing sample complete ______________________ Sample attached ______

Name of Faculty Honors Advisor _________________________________

Approvals:

________________________________________________________________________有助
OL Honors Coordinator

__________________________________________________________________________
Faculty Honors Advisor

__________________________________________________________________________
LDR Dept. Chair

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