SUMMARY OF THE HONORS PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Undergraduate students in Communication Sciences and Disorders with an overall 3.2 grade point average and a 3.5 grade point average in Departmental courses at the end of Fall quarter of their junior year may apply for the Departmental Honors Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders. The Honors Program is intended to provide undergraduate students with an opportunity for a faculty-mentored research experience. Completion and defense of original research by the end of the senior year will merit graduation with honors.

The student must enlist one faculty member as the advisor for the project and another as the secondary reader for the project. The advisor must be a tenure-track professor or a research assistant professor or above. The secondary reader must be a lecturer or above. The students should then complete the application form in conjunction with the faculty advisor. Upon completion, the application form should be submitted to the Chair of the Honors Committee for review and approval by the Honors Committee no later than the end of the third week of classes in the Fall quarter of the student's senior year. Students can submit their Honor’s proposal no earlier than Winter quarter of their junior year. Students must receive approval for their Honors plan before proceeding with their work.

Students are encouraged to try to win external support for their research through the Research Opportunities for Undergraduates Program at Northwestern University. Please see http://www.northwestern.edu/undergrad-research for more information. This program allows for academic year and summer research grants to support undergraduate research.

THE UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Objectives

1. To provide an opportunity for undergraduate students to complete a substantial research project;
2. To introduce students to graduate-level research;
3. To provide formal honorary recognition to students who have excelled in course work and in research activity.

Requirements

1. Overall GPA of 3.2 or better and departmental GPA of at least 3.5 by the end of Fall Quarter of junior year;

1/2007
2. GPA of 3.5 or better maintained throughout the senior year;
3. Completion of at least two independent study courses during the junior or senior year with a grade average of B+ or better;
4. A completed research project of high quality submitted in written form;
5. Satisfactory oral presentation and defense of research project.

Under exceptional circumstances, the first two requirements may be modified for an individual student upon petition to the Honors Committee.

**Procedures**

Undergraduate students in Communication Sciences and Disorders with the required grade point averages may apply for the Departmental Honors Program. Students should contact a primary faculty advisor to direct their projects. A secondary faculty reader for the project should be identified and contacted as soon as possible. Periodic consultation with the secondary reader is strongly recommended. The primary advisor will help the student plan his or her independent study courses and write a **3-5 page proposal** for the research project. The proposal should include background and rationale for the project, proposed methodology including statistical analysis, and predicted outcomes. Students must submit an application and the proposal to the Chair of the Honors Committee. These materials must be submitted no later than the end of the first three weeks of the Fall quarter of the student’s senior year. Students can submit their Honor’s proposal no earlier than Winter quarter of their junior year. Students must receive approval for their Honors plan from the Honors Committee **before proceeding** with the work.

The Honors Program will consist of two or more independent study courses, completion of the research project, an oral defense and a written thesis. The thesis may be completed during the last independent study course. This thesis must be submitted to the primary faculty advisor and to an additional faculty reader no later than three weeks prior to the end of classes in the final quarter of the student’s senior year. The defense will be scheduled during May of the student’s senior year.

The research project can consist of an empirical investigation done in the laboratory, in the field, or in a clinical setting. It can also consist of an original review of an existing body of research literature with a plan for an empirical study or it may be a theoretical paper. The following standards shall be used to judge the written product: the research reported in the thesis should be original, well conceived, and should involve substantial independent effort. The thesis should be a well-written, carefully organized, and concise report of the research project, approximately 25-50 double-spaced typewritten pages in length.
The defense will last approximately 30 minutes. It will begin with a presentation by the student of his or her research to the faculty mentors, the Honors Committee, other students (undergraduate and graduate), and, if the student wishes, invited guests. This presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length. A ten-minute question period will follow. Questions will usually pertain to the student's project, but may also address related methodological, theoretical or empirical issues.

The Honors Committee will determine if the student has the required academic background to accomplish the project. In some instances, approval of the project will be made conditional upon the completion of additional course work (e.g., statistics). The Honors Committee will serve as the arbitrator in cases where the two faculty readers disagree on the quality of the research report.

Honors will be granted to those students enrolled in the program who have satisfied the formal academic requirements and whose thesis and defense performance have been approved by the two faculty readers. An "Honors" designation will become part of the student's official university transcript and will also appear in the graduation program. (No such designation appears on the student's diploma, however.)

**Responsibilities of Student**

- Seek a primary advisor and secondary reader for this project
- Prepare and submit an application for the honors program by the deadline (end of the third week of classes, senior year)
- Complete literature review
- Implement proposed plan
- Write thesis based on completed project
- Defend thesis during oral examination

**Responsibilities of Faculty Advisor**

- Aid in preparation of honors application
- Provide facilities/resources for completing of honors project and/or assist students in seeking these resources
- Provide mentoring (directly or through laboratory personnel) necessary for completion of a *first* research experience
- Aid student in preparation of written thesis
- Judge adequacy of honors thesis

1/2007
• Attend oral examination

**Responsibilities of Secondary Faculty Reader**

• Provide feedback on honors plan
• Be available to share expertise related to project
• Provide feedback on honors thesis before oral examination
• Judge adequacy of honors thesis
• Attend oral examination

**Responsibilities of Honors Committee**

• Notify qualified juniors of honors opportunities
• Judge honors applications providing suggested modifications where needed
• Organize oral examination
• Attend oral examination
• Determine award of honors in cases where primary and secondary readers disagree
• Notify Dean's office with names of students graduating with honors