REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
May 31, 2001

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

PROPOSED CHANGE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE HONORS PROGRAM

To be adopted:

Present

Prerequisites for the Honors Program

1. Submission of an application during the last quarter of the sophomore year
2. Junior standing (completion of a minimum of 86 units)
3. Minimum GPA requirements or consent of Director
   a) Cumulative GPA of 3.50
   b) A GPA of 3.50 in upper-division major courses

Requirements for the Honors Program

Students must participate in the Political Science Honors Program for a minimum of four, preferably six, quarters.

1. Junior year (or earlier)
   a) POSC 114
   b) SOC 110B, SOC 110C; or STAT 100A, STAT 100B
2) During Junior year
   a) Four (4) units of upper-division Political Science honors course work
   b) Four (4) units of POSC 197 (Research for Undergraduates)
3) Senior year
   a) Four (4) units of upper-division Political Science honors course work or Political Science graduate course work
   b) Eight (8) units of POSC 199 (Senior Research) taken in the fall and winter quarters
   c) Two (2) units of POSC 199 (Senior Research) for senior honors thesis
   d) Submission on an independent thesis at the end of the seventh week of the last quarter of the senior year

PROPOSED

Prerequisites for the Honors Program

1. Submission of an application during the last quarter of the sophomore or junior year
2. Junior standing (completion of a minimum of 86 units)
3. Minimum GPA requirements or consent of Director
   a) Cumulative GPA of 3.50
   b) A GPA of 3.50 in upper-division major courses
4. Statistics or Methods course (i.e., POSC 114) recommended

Requirements for the Honors Program
(12 units/3 courses)

1. POSC 175H - Introduction to the Honors Thesis
2. POSC 176H - Seminar on Writing the Honors Thesis
3. POSC 177H - Senior Research (Thesis)
4. POSC 199 – Senior Research Thesis (Optional)
JUSTIFICATION: The proposed changes are representative of the ongoing efforts of the Department of Political Science to serve its best students, those with major GPAs over 3.5 and/or an expressed interest in graduate or professional school. As it exists, the department's honor's program requires courses that are certainly useful to a student who desires to write an honors thesis, but not essential to that purpose; moreover, the existing program's two-to-three year sequence has been difficult for the department's permanent faculty to maintain, as well as nearly impossible for some our most promising students to complete. The proposed honors program represents a streamlined version of its predecessor emphasizing the academic potential of prospective honors students and a one year program that combines training in the art of writing an extended essay, such as the requisite honors thesis, with individual guidance toward the timely completion of each student's thesis project. The thesis must be completed, approved by a two-member faculty committee, and submitted to the department. The thesis must also be submitted to the University Honors Program for any student desiring both the departmental and university honors.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2001

Approved by Political Science Department: 8/18/00

Approved by Executive Committee, CHA&SS: 11/15/00

Approved by Committee on Educational Policy: 5/3/01