

# Honors in the Major

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design

- **Overview**

The Honors in the Major Program will provide FAU undergraduate students the opportunity to achieve academic excellence beyond the level of standard course work by completing honors-level enrichment in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design. Students interested in pursuing Honors designation in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design are required to meet the eligibility and admission requirements noted below. Each student's Honors program of study will include at least six credit hours in Honors course work in upper-level planning/ urban design courses.

There are two pathways to attaining Honors in the Major in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design. Undergraduate students who successfully fulfill all requirements associated with one of the below pathways and have a final cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater at the time of degree conferral will receive a designation of Honors in the Major on their transcript. The transcript designations will include:

- **Honors in the Major in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design: Honors Capstone Thesis**
- **Honors in the Major in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design: Honors Capstone Research**

### **Requirements for Eligibility and Admission to the Honors in the Major in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design:**

(Program entry is limited to 20 percent of students within the Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design major.)

1. Completed at least 5 upper-level (4000) courses in BURP or BUD
2. Cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.3 in core courses
3. Cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 overall
4. Formal application form must be submitted after completion of 90 credit hours no later than 3 weeks prior to the beginning of the semester for which students seek to enroll in the Honors in the Major Program.

#### **The application package should include:**

application form to be signed by the mentoring faculty  
unofficial transcript  
resume  
personal statement  
a letter of support by the mentoring faculty

- **Requirements to maintain Eligibility to the Honors in the Major in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design**

- Maintain good academic and ethical standing
- Maintain cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.3 in core courses

- Maintain cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 overall
- In the beginning semester, complete at least one **honors compact** in upper-level planning/ urban design courses with a grade of B or higher to prepare for independent research and honors-level enrichment
- For the thesis option, complete URP 4978 RI: Honors Planning Capstone in lieu of URP 4979 Planning Capstone (for BURP students) or URP 4924 RI: Honors Urban Design Capstone in lieu of URP 4923 Urban Design Capstone (for BUD Students) with a grade of B or higher
- If any of the above standards for maintaining eligibility in the program are not met, the student will be advised accordingly on how to undertake remedial actions.
- Students will not be allowed to continue in the major honors program for:
  - Violation of the Code of Academic Integrity
  - Any grade of less than C in core courses and less than B in the Honors course and/or Honors compact

### **Honors in the Major in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design: Honors Capstone Thesis**

#### *Honors Level Enrichment:*

Honors level enrichment will be provided in the form of extensive mentoring in practical research by departmental faculty or approved departmental affiliated faculty culminating in production of a thesis.

Three credit hours will be achieved through an Honors Compact with the mentoring faculty in a regularly taught course where the student will have the opportunity to participate in honors-level enrichment activities, prepare for individual research, and demonstrate academic excellence. Students must complete the Honors Compact Proposal and Approval Form and submit it *to the department chair (or the director of the honors program to which the course will be applied) no later than the “last day to drop/add courses without consequences” of the term in which the Honors Compact will be completed.* The guidelines for completing an honors compact and the form can be found at [http://www.fau.edu/honorsboca/Honors\\_Compact\\_Guidelines\\_and\\_Form.php](http://www.fau.edu/honorsboca/Honors_Compact_Guidelines_and_Form.php).

In addition, students seeking honors designation are required to successfully complete the requirements for URP 4978 RI: Honors Planning Capstone in lieu of URP 4979 Planning Capstone (for BURP students) or URP 4924 RI: Honors Urban Design Capstone in lieu of URP 4923 Urban Design Capstone (for BUD Students). In case a student fails to complete URP 4978 or URP 4924 with a grade of “B” or higher, the credits earned may count toward her/his bachelor’s degree without the honors designation, as long as the student meets the requirements for successful completion of the capstone course in BURP or BUD.

A student who successfully completes an **Honors Capstone Thesis** in the Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (BURP) or an **Honors Capstone Thesis** in the Bachelor of Urban Design (BUD) will receive the degree with Departmental Honors, to be noted on the student’s transcript along with the title of the **Honors Capstone Thesis**. The **Honors Capstone Thesis** will be preserved in a separate collection in the FAU Wimberly Library.

### *Honors Capstone Thesis Experience:*

- Complete URP 4978 RI: Honors Planning Capstone in lieu of URP 4979 Planning Capstone (for BURP students) or URP 4924 RI: Honors Urban Design Capstone in lieu of URP 4923 Urban Design Capstone (for BUD Students) with a grade of B or higher
- The honors thesis will be supervised by a thesis committee of at least two faculty with a terminal degree in the discipline and affiliation with the School of Urban and Regional Planning.
- The committee will review the thesis and if the student's work is judged to meet the standards for an honors thesis, the student will be allowed to proceed with the oral defense.
  - If the committee determines that the student's work on the thesis does not meet the minimal standard required for successful completion of an honors level course, the following steps will be undertaken: the faculty supervisor will discuss with the student the specific nature of the issues that need to be addressed AND the committee will request that the student make substantive changes to the thesis within a specified period of time (typically prior to the graduation date).
- If the requirements are still not met, the student will receive a grade for the course that will count towards her/his degree in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design but will not receive the Honors Designation as long as the student meets the requirements for a successful completion of capstone course in BURP or BUD.
- Students will be encouraged to seek topics that can be incorporated in service learning, interdisciplinary research & inquiry, creativity, civic engagement and collaboration with SE FL communities.
- Students will be encouraged to seek opportunities for publication/ presentation such as participation in the *Undergraduate Research Symposium*, *Distinction through Discovery* competitions, *FAU Undergraduate Research Journal*, and National Collegiate Honors Society conference, among others.

### **Honors in the Major in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design: Honors Capstone Research**

The School of Urban and Regional Planning offers an Honors Research Program that recognizes outstanding research accomplishments of undergraduate students. Eligible students must meet the requirements for Eligibility and Admission and the requirements to maintain Eligibility to the Honors in the Major in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design. Students usually begin the program in their junior or senior year and conduct independent supervised research in their junior or senior years. Presentation of a poster or seminar at a local, regional, national or international research conference/ symposium describing the results of their research is required.

### *Honors Level Enrichment:*

Honors level enrichment will be provided in the form of extensive mentoring in practical research by departmental faculty or approved departmental affiliated faculty culminating in one or more of the following: production of a report for an external agency or internal use, a journal article, or a grant application. The research results will be disseminated via a research poster or a conference/ symposium presentation.

### *Honors Capstone Research Experience:*

The Honors Capstone Research Experience will consist of these two options:

- **Option 1:** At least two semesters of Directed Independent Research (URP4516) with a confirmed faculty mentor which may be taken for 0-3 credits in a given semester in the junior or senior year.
- **Option 2:** At least one semester of a Research-Intensive coursework (in a course with a RI designation) with a grade of B or higher and at least one semester of Directed Independent Research (URP4516) with a confirmed faculty mentor which may be taken for 0-3 credits in a given semester in the junior or senior year.
- In order to qualify for Honors Designation, the aforementioned credit hours under both Option 1 and Option 2 will be achieved through an Honors Compact with the mentoring faculty. Students must complete the Honors Compact Proposal and Approval Form and submit it to the department chair (or the director of the honors program to which the course will be applied) no later than the “last day to drop/add courses without consequences” of the term in which the Honors Compact will be completed. The guidelines for completing an honors compact and the form can be found at [http://www.fau.edu/honorsboca/Honors\\_Compact\\_Guidelines\\_and\\_Form.php](http://www.fau.edu/honorsboca/Honors_Compact_Guidelines_and_Form.php).

### *Honors Capstone Research Outcomes:*

- Production of a high-quality report for an external agency or internal use, a research grant application, conference paper, or a journal article.
- Dissemination of research results via a presentation or a poster at a local, regional, national or international research conference/ symposium.
- If the requirements are not met, the student will receive a grade for the course that will count towards her/his degree in Urban and Regional Planning or Urban Design but will not receive the Honors Designation as long as the student meets the requirements for a successful completion of capstone course in BURP or BUD.
- Students will be encouraged to seek topics that can be incorporated in service learning, interdisciplinary research & inquiry, creativity, civic engagement and collaboration with SE FL communities.
- Students will be encouraged to seek opportunities for publication/ presentation such as participation in the *Undergraduate Research Symposium*, *Distinction through Discovery* competitions, *FAU Undergraduate Research Journal*, and National Collegiate Honors Society conference, among others.