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# Rhode Island College

Feinstein School of Education and Human Development  
Department of Elementary Education

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## 1. First Semester

### ELED 490 – Directed Study – 3 credits

- a. The candidate will choose the area of his/her proposed study with the consent of the honors Committee.
- b. With the consent of the Chairperson of the Elementary Education Department, the Honors Committee will appoint one or more faculty advisors (with his/her consent) to assist the candidate in selecting a project topic and to direct the candidate's study.
- c. The candidate will consult regularly with his/her faculty advisor on the progress of his/her directed study.
- d. By April 1<sup>st</sup> or November 1<sup>st</sup> of the first semester of the Project, the candidate shall meet with the Honors Committee to review his/her work to date. The student shall submit evidence that the Project is being conducted according to plan; such evidence may include documents (bibliographies, outlines, notes, etc.), performance or presentations, or other methods of presenting the Project. The candidate should be prepared to discuss the project and answer questions from members for the Committee. If the candidate's Project advisor is not a member of the Committee, the advisor will be invited to be present and to make his/her recommendations regarding the progress of the Project. The advisor/supervisor will not vote on any matters concerning the study even if she/he is a member of the Committee.
- e. The result of the semester's work normally will be a detailed chapter outline of the honors project and a bibliography.
- f. The faculty advisor will evaluate the candidate's work and will report his/her grade to the Honors Committee. If the candidate receives less than a B, he/she will be dropped from the Honors Program although he/she will be awarded 3 credits in ELED 490 if he/she has achieved a passing grade.
- g. If the Committee's decision is positive, the advisor may assign the grade for the ELED 490 Independent Study and the student may continue in the Honor's Program and file her/his proposal for the ELED 491 Independent Study for the following semester.

## 2. Second Semester

### ELED 491 – Directed Study – 3 credits

- a. After completion of the first semester of directed study, the student will write an honors paper under the supervision of the faculty advisor, who will keep the Honors Committee informed of the candidate's progress. The paper will embody substantial work.
- b. Normally, the candidate will synthesize ideas and follow the principles of critical analysis to produce an Honors paper of 30-50 pages on a limited topic. The paper should be based on significant research and offer creative insights; it may be based on field action research and it must be written in clear, cogent prose.
- c. The candidate must submit a final copy of the paper to the Committee by November 1 for winter graduation and April 1 for spring graduation.

- d. The advisor/supervisor will evaluate the paper first and then will submit it to the Honors Committee for final acceptance. The advisor assigns a letter grade to the paper, while the Honors Committee decides whether to designate honors. The Committee will decide by a majority vote. The Committee will consult with appropriate faculty members when necessary before making a final decision. The Honors Committee via the Department Chairperson will submit to the Records Officer at the appropriate time in December for winter graduation or May for spring graduation a list of the names of those students who are expected to receive honors.
  - e. If the Honors Committee approves the paper, the candidate will receive Honors in Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education. This information will become part of the student's permanent college records and Honors in Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education will be awarded at graduation.
  - f. If the Honors Committee does not judge the paper to be acceptable for honors, or if it is not completed, the student may receive 3 credits and a grade in Elementary Education 491 at the discretion of the faculty advisor.
  - g. Following the acceptance of the paper, the Honors Committee will meet with the student and supervisor to discuss the honors work in a sharing atmosphere not in an oral defense. Honors students are also encouraged to make a more formal presentation of their work. Honors students are encouraged to participate in College Honors activities. Upon request by the student and supervisor, the Honors Committee will arrange a colloquium to which Elementary Education/Early Childhood faculty and students will be invited.
  - h. While an honors seminar is not a requirement of the Program, the Department strongly recommends that, when possible, honors candidate enroll in a common seminar.
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## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Department of Elementary Education Honors Program in Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education shall be to encourage and assist qualified students to engage in independent research, scholarship or field work which is not normally a part of the academic program of studies and which will develop a dimension of the student's education not normally addressed by those studies. Satisfactory completion of the Honors Program shall be noted on the student's permanent academic record.

## **Qualifications for Admission**

- A. To qualify for admission to the Department of Elementary Education Honors Program, a student:
  - must be admitted to the Elementary Education or Early Childhood Program
  - must have completed at least 60 credits but not more than 90 credits
  - must have earned an overall GPA of 3.33 ( including any quality points accepted in transfer from other institutions) and a GPA of 3.50 in Program work.

A student who does not meet all of the above criteria may, at the option of the Committee, be admitted to the program on probationary status. However, the student must satisfy all criteria for admission by the end of the first semester of the Honors Project or be dismissed from the honors program.

## **Application Procedures**

- A. A student may apply for admission to the Department of Elementary Education Honors Program any time after being admitted to the Elementary Education/Early Childhood Program at the end of his/her fourth semester (60 credit hours) and before the end of his/her sixth semester (90 credit hours). Students are encouraged in their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> semesters to participate in an College Honors seminars and other programs that may become available.
- B. Applications shall be made by a personal letter to the Chair of the Department, who shall forward the

- letter to the Chair of the Honors Committee.
- C. The student's application must be supported by a faculty member, in the appropriate discipline, who agrees to serve as his/her Honors advisor/supervisor.
  - D. The application letter and proposal must include a description of the student's proposed Honors Project, its purpose and importance, an identification of a topic and a preliminary hypothesis, a statement of the objectives of the project, the methodologies/procedures to be used, description of participants, intent for data collection and analysis, projected dates for completion of various steps in the project, a selected bibliography and the relationship between the project and the anticipated post-baccalaureate career and/or studies in clear, concise communication with ethical considerations and the use of APA style. (See Evaluation Form for rating Proposals for Honors Projects) Students and their supervisors will be provided with a copy of the rating forms by the Chair of the Honors Committee.
  - E. The application must be approved by the Department of Elementary Education Honors Committee before she/he embarks on the Honors Project.
  - F. The candidate may be asked to make revisions or redefine the topic. Both revisions and review by the Committee are to be done in a timely fashion.

**Contact Information**

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