These recommendations stem in part from the results of a self-assessment of the program during the 2011-12 academic year that tracked current and past activity of UI honors students. Practices of honors programs at peer institutions and national standards for honors programs also were considered. The recommendations themselves were formulated from discussion of the Honors Program staff and were all reached via a facilitator through consensus.

1. **STUDENTS QUALIFIED FOR ENTRY MUST OPT INTO THE PROGRAM VIA ACCEPTANCE OF A FORMAL INVITATION.**
   a. Attendance at an Honors orientation is required of all students regardless of when they enter.

2. **REQUIRED MINIMUM CORE OF 12 SEMESTER HOURS OF HONORS CREDIT FROM CLASSES AND HONORS DESIGNATIONS.**
   a. This first tier 12 hour requirement emphasizes “building knowledge,” and it applies to all students regardless of how or when they enter the program.
   b. This first tier has the following qualifications:
      i. Of the 12 semester course hours, only one course may be an honors designation
         • In case of special circumstances (e.g., engineering students or students who enter the program late in their academic career) students may use up to 6 hours of honors designation
      ii. All Honors admits will take an honors course (or honors designation) in their first semester in the program
      iii. Direct Honors admits from high school are required to take an honors first-year seminar in their first semester

3. **REQUIRED SECOND TIER OF 12 SEMESTER HOURS OF HONORS CREDIT FROM A MENU OPTION.**
a. This second tier 12 hour requirement emphasizes “experiential learning” and it applies to all students regardless of how or when they enter the program.

b. Students may satisfy the second tier requirement with the following options:
   i. Honors in the major (equals full 12 s.h.)
   ii. 12 semester hours (or the equivalent) of research
   iii. Study abroad for one year or two semesters may count for up to 12 hours.
       • Requires students to conduct/carry out an independent project while abroad and to submit a report on the project.
       • Single semesters of study abroad, including summer and between-semester experiences, may be counted toward the 12 hour requirement.
   iv. Internships may count up to 6 semester hours
       • In some cases, e.g. Engineering and Business, internships may count for the entire 12 hours
       • Requires students to conduct/carry out an independent project while interning and to submit a report on the project.
   v. Honors coursework may count up to 6 semester hours

4. RECOGNITION OF GRADUATION WITH UNIVERSITY HONORS ON THE TRANSCRIPT AND AT GRADUATION CEREMONIES.

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