Advising Tip Sheet

for Academic Scholars in the

College of Engineering

First, a quick reminder of ASP requirements. To get transcript recognition for participating in the Program, you need a **gpa of 3.0 or higher** by the end of your second year and must complete **four enhanced courses** by then as well, as follows:

1. one Honors Integrative Studies class
2. one Honors class in any subject (including a second Honors Integrative Studies course)
3. two enhanced classes (including additional courses that qualify under requirements #1 and #2, Honors Options in regular classes, and the Honors and non-Honors courses allowed for ASP substitutions in Integrative Studies)

TIPS (points of special relevance to Engineering majors in bold):

1a. Always remember that ASP requirement #1 is the most specific and least flexible of all three requirements. For Engineering majors, this class will be one of your ISS or IAH classes. It must be an actual Honors section and it must have either ISS or IAH as its "alpha code." Thus, it cannot be one of the ASP substitutes for Integrative Studies and it cannot be an H-Option in a regular ISS or IAH class. These classes are only offered in Fall and Spring semesters and on the MSU campus – not in the summer, not overseas, and not as transfer courses.

1b. You may already have an Honors ISS class or possibly even an Honors IAH class in your first year, in which case you're all set, but it's quite common for Engineering majors to fulfill this requirement in their second year.

1c. You may have AP courses that have been applied to one of your ISS and/or one of your IAH requirements (ask your major advisor about this). If so, you need to be particularly careful not to "use up" your three or possibly even only two other I.S. courses before you've taken an Honors ISS or IAH, because then you would have to take another course (and give up the application of the AP toward your University requirements) to complete your ASP requirements – not a pretty picture!!

2a. There's lots more choices for requirement #2, with several that are particularly popular among Engineering majors. Some of you probably have Honors CEM or Honors MTH courses, which definitely fit here (but we count the two 2-credit Honors CEM lab courses as a single Honors class, as does the Honors College). Other common Honors courses used by Scholars in Engineering are WRA 195H (lots of sections every Fall/Spring), ME 180/H (an H-section of ME 180 is offered every Fall/Spring), an additional Honors ISS or IAH class, and the Honors sections that are available as substitutes for ISS (like EC 201/H, ENT 319/H, ANP 201/H, or PLS 170/H) or IAH (PHL 200/H). But any Honors class of 3 or more credits will be fine here.

2b. If you're interested in getting some research experience, you should take a good look at the Honors Research Seminars (UGS 200H) that are available to Scholars in their second year. There are some really cool projects among these seminars, and you get the chance to both do research and present it publicly, sometimes even to get an actual print publication out of the experience.

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2c. Although it's pretty rare, if you take a graduate course – something you would only do with the professor's permission and encouragement, but it does happen once in a while – that would count here too, as it does in the Honors College.

3a. The most flexible ASP requirement of all is #3, though you need two classes here. Anything that satisfies #1 and #2 is good here too, and you can also use Honors Options and the non-Honors ASP substitutes for ISS and IAH.

3b. Remember that you can have no more than one substitute in each Integrative Studies area (but if you've used an AP course for one of your ISS or IAH classes, you can still have an ASP substitute for the other course). If you have used (or plan to use) an ASP substitute for ISS/IAH, and want to take a higher-level ISS or IAH without having the prerequisite 200-level or 201-210 course, I can arrange a prerequisite override for you very easily – but you have to let me know the semester, course number, and section number (either Honors or regular).

3c. Prereq. overrides only enable you to get into a course that has open seats, but they remain in the enrollment system so that if a seat becomes available you'll be able to sign up if you spot it.

3d. Honors Options have both pros and cons – they're very flexible; they can give you lots of opportunity to show your initiative; and they help you stand out to faculty, either in your own major or elsewhere (think about letters of recommendation, advice they can give, and such benefits). They also will be counted by the Honors College toward HC graduation requirements if you join the Honors College starting in your second year.

On the other hand, only regular MSU faculty are supposed to offer them (on rare occasions, a department might allow a senior graduate student to do so if a faculty member will supervise the work as well). Secondly, they aren't available in all classes – no MTH classes below 300 and only a few below 400 level, no 100- or 200-level foreign language courses, none of the 1-credit Kinesiology courses, and so on – and some faculty want you to have at least a semester or a year of MSU course work to show your basic abilities or simply aren't able to do an H-Option in a particular course. Third, in some departments, if you get below a 3.5 or a 3.0 in the course, you don't get the H-O credit even if you completed the Honors project. [See the Honors College website pages on H-Options for more details about these potential restrictions in specific departments.] And finally, if you get behind in a semester, you may need to give up the H-O in order to focus on your regular course work, so you can't count on them for this requirement as heavily as you would on being in an actual enhanced course.

[Experiential Learning: Engineering students often have opportunities to take a co-op semester, which can be a great way of learning. Since there is usually no way to take any Honors or otherwise enhanced courses while on a semester-long co-op course, the Academic Scholars Program will "stop the clock" on the 2-year time-frame for completion of ASP requirements if you undertake a semester of co-op work in your first 2 years at MSU, giving you an extra semester to complete the program.]

4. Finally, keep in mind that this tip sheet is merely a jumping-off point for your academic planning, focused only on the ASP dimension of your course work. You'll want to do the full-scale planning in individual sessions with your own academic advisors, who can help you plan programs that are tailored to your own particular interests and abilities.