

## Advising Tip Sheet for Academic Scholars in

### James Madison College

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 Madison students in bold):**

**1a. Always remember that ASP requirement #1 is the most specific and least flexible of all three requirements. For Scholars in James Madison, this class will be one of your ISB, ISP, or IAH classes (since MC 201-202 cover your ISS requirement).** It must be an actual Honors section and it must have ISB, ISP, 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 ISB, ISP, or IAH class. Honors ISB/ISP/IAH 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 have signed up for an Honors ISB or ISP class or possibly even an Honors IAH class in your first year, in which case you’re all set, but many Madison Scholars take most or all of their ISB, ISP, and/or IAH classes after their first year.**

**1c.** You may have AP courses that have been applied to your ISB or ISP and/or one of your IAH requirements (like HST 202 or 203 for an upper-level IAH course, but ask your Madison advisor about how your AP credits are being applied). 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 Integrative Studies course, 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!! You’ll also need to be careful to take the right level of IAH if you’ve got AP credit that is applied to the upper-level IAH area..

**2a. There’s lots more choices for requirement #2, with several that are particularly popular among Madison students. It’s very common for Academic Scholars in Madison to use EC 201/H for this requirement, since the course is part of your Madison requirements anyway. Other possibilities include an additional Honors Integrative Studies class, and the Honors courses that can substitute for either ISB or ISP (ENT 319/H) or for 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, 3 cr.) 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 great while, with the right student and the right course – 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.

**Many Madison faculty are quite open to making H-Options available (sometimes restricted to the second semester) and many Madison Academic Scholars will have an H-Option in JM 112 and/or JM 202 in their first year, along with EC 201/H, even if they don't take any ISB, ISP, or IAH classes until their second year.**

On the other hand, there are some restrictions on H-Options: 1) 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). 2) 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 they may simply not be able to do an H-Option in a particular course. 3) 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.] 4) Last but not least, if you fall behind in a particular semester, you may need to give up an H-O in order to focus on your regular course work, so you shouldn't count on them for this requirement as heavily as you would on being in an actual enhanced course. But all in all, H-Options can be good opportunities, as long as you know their limitations.

**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.