

**Semester Departmental Honors Requirements**

**Department Name: Geography**

<b>Semester Requirements</b>	
<p><b>Eligibility Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumulative and/or major GPAs</li> <li>• Earned credit hours</li> </ul>	<p>GPA: 3.5 or better in all coursework Enter major no later than the beginning of Spring Semester during their Junior year or after completing 84 credit hours.</p>
<p><b>Proposal and Approval Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements for a student proposal</li> <li>• Details about the department's approval of the proposal</li> </ul>	<p>Students complete a Project Proposal during the first two weeks of GEO 4990 Applied Research Project. The instructor shares the Honors Project Proposal with the Department Chair and MPA Director. These individuals will comprise the Honors Committee and approve the proposal.</p>
<p><b>Academic Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length, scope, and nature of the research/project/internship/co-op/performance</li> <li>• Course(s), credit hours (typically 3-6 semester hours), and required grades</li> <li>• Presentation (if required)</li> </ul>	<p>Project Requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 pages, excluding endnotes, references cited, bibliography and appendices;</li> <li>• A minimum of 25 quality sources (books, peer reviewed articles etc.);</li> <li>• Complete GEO 4990, 3 credit hours, with a grade of A;</li> <li>• Present Honors Project via a PowerPoint presentation to the Honors Committee and competently respond to questions about data quality, methodology and data interpretation and findings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the criterion</li> <li>• List who will determine satisfactory completion of the departmental honors requirements</li> </ul>	<p>The Honors Committee determines the completion of the requirement; however, the instructor awards the grade. Please see attached rubrics for evaluation of the Honors Project (Attachment #1) and presentation (Attachment #2).</p>
<p><b>Project Oversight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detail who will serve as a student's project advisor (a single faculty member, department committee, and/or department chair)</li> </ul>	<p>The instructor of GEO 4990 serves as the project advisor.</p>
<p><b>Timeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the typical timeline for completion of the project, including milestones for when a student should apply to, begin work on, and complete the project</li> </ul>	<p>The student prepares for the Applied Research Project by completing GEO 4860 Geographic Methodology and Foundations and or URS 4980 Quantitative/Qualitative Analysis. The instructors of GEO 4860 and URS 4980 encourage students to identify topics that they will research in GEO 4990. The Honors Student informs the instructor of GEO 4860 or URS 4990, the Chair and MPA Director of their plan to complete an Honors project immediately after enrolling in GEO 4990.</p>
<p><b>Q2S Transition Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a student begins an honors project on the quarter system but will complete the project on the semester system, describe the transition plan, including Q2S course equivalencies</li> </ul>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p><b>Forms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attach any forms a student must complete in conjunction with the departmental honors project (admission, approval, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p>Students may enter Honors in Geography upon application and approval by the standing Honors Committee (defined as the Chair and MPA Director). See attachment #3</p>

## Attachment #1

### Evaluation of GEO 4990 Applied Research Project

#### 1.0 Introduction to the Research Issue 10%

Did the author convince you that their topic deserved greater attention from researchers?

- Data provided
- Programs designed to address the issue
- Policy/law issues identified

Did the author provide a clear research statement and clearly state their research goal(s)?

Did the author outline the contents of the paper?

#### 2.0 Review of Literature 20%

Did the author effectively present the theory and empirical studies related to the topic?

- Adopted an effective thematic structure to synthesize and critique the literature
- Explained theories
- Surveyed methodologies used to study the topic
- Exposed the gaps in our knowledge

**Other elements:** Reviewed quality sources, surveyed related sources per the bibliography, and used correct and consistent citation style for citing the text and listing sources in Reference Cited Section.

#### 3.0 Methodology 20%

##### Study Details:

Described the scope of the study (how has the author limited their research)?

Explained to the reader the type of study conducted and why?

Provided definitions of variables and attributes that can stand up to validity tests?

Identified and explained the merits of their data collection method(s)?

Described GEO spatial analytical methods used to interpret data?

Detailed efforts taken to reduce data reliability problems?

Provided a clear and concise research purpose or question with a hypothesis(es)?

#### 4.0 Findings 25%

Logically present their information?

Expanded their findings from broad to specific data?

Correctly, ethically and accurately utilized data?

**5.0 Conclusion 10%**

Summarized what has been accomplished—what we now know?

Put into context with literature reviewed?

Acknowledged the limitations of the study and methodology?

Recommended future research?

**6.0 Reference Citations—correct and consistent 5%**

**7.0 Bibliography—correct and consistent 5%**

**8.0 Appendices—numbered and properly cited 5%**

## Attachment #2

**Evaluator's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

### EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PRESENTATIONS

Below are a set of criteria to evaluate research presentations. Each criteria has a rating scale ranging from 1 to 5 where 1 = many major and minor improvements required; 2 = a few major and many minor improvements needed; 3 = many minor improvements needed; 4 = a few minor improvements needed; and 5= excellent no minor or major improvements needed.

CRITERIA	RATING				
<b>Clarity of topic:</b> Did the presenter clearly state their research goal(s)?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Topic Importance:</b> Did the presenter convince you this topic deserved greater attention from researchers?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Methodology:</b> Did the presenter clearly state how they collected their information/data?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Findings/Conclusion:</b> Did the presenter:					
1. Logically present their information?	1	2	3	4	5
2. Expand their findings from board to specific data?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Contribution to Our Knowledge of the topic:</b> Did the presenter expand your knowledge of the topic.	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Presentation Skills:</b> Did the presenter use interesting slides?	1	2	3	4	5
Was the presenter well organized?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Comments:</b> What I liked best					

What I think should be improved:

## **Geography Honors Program**

The Geography Honors Program provides an opportunity for students to achieve their highest possible level of intellectual attainment. Geography majors of superior academic ability are invited to apply.

### **Admission into the Program**

A student may enter the program upon successful applying to the Geography Honors Committee. The Chair of the department, the Director of the Master of Public Administration Program and the Instructor for GEO 4990 Applied Research Project comprise the committee. Applicants must have a cumulative Wright State University grade point average of 3.5 or better in all coursework. It is recommended that students enter the program during their junior year or after completing 84 semester credit hours.

### **Completion of the Urban Honors Program**

A student completes the Geography Honors program when they have met the requirements listed below.

1. Completed all requirements for the Geography Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor Science degree.
2. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 for all coursework completed at WSU.
3. Completed GEO 4990 Applied Research Project with a grade of A.
4. Presented and orally defended their GEO 4990 Applied Research Project before the Urban Affairs Honors Committee.
5. Completed at least one University Honors Seminar.

### **Application:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**UID#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credits hours completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduation Date** \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be admitted into the Geography Honors Program, and I understand the requirements for admission and the requirements for completing the Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date