

Mentoring Signature Honors Projects: the opportunities and requirements for the Mentor

Katie Ford

Associate Dean, Honors; Director of Brinkley-Lane
Scholars

fordk@ecu.edu



Agenda

- What is the Signature Honors Project (SHP)
- Why mentor an SHP
- Components of the SHP
- Examples of recent SHPs
- Where to go to get answers



What is a Signature Honors Project (SHP)?

In partnership with a faculty mentor, the SHP presents an opportunity for concentrated scholarly study in an area of the student's choice.

The SHP will represent an original contribution to a discipline by completing a thesis or creative endeavor.



Why mentor an SHP?

- Concentrated work with a dedicated and strong undergraduate student.
- The Signature Honors Project (SHP) has the potential to be one of the most satisfying experiences of the student's undergraduate career.
- The skills the student refines while designing and then completing the SHP will often separate them from other outstanding candidates for graduate school or future employment opportunities.



Components of the SHP

Who completes an SHP? And when?:

- All Honors students are required to complete an SHP.
- Students can complete the SHP anytime at ECU but it should be started no later than the first semester of senior year.



Components of the SHP

- represents original scholarly or creative work.
- SHP contract--HNRS 4000
- 6 credit hours of classes associated with the SHP (HNRS 4500/4550 or departmental equivalent)
- at least one public presentation (recommended: RCAW)
- a final writeup that is uploaded into ScholarShip/Vireo in the library.
- a final grade of “B minus” or higher to receive Honors College credit for the SHP.



Examples of recent SHPs

- HNRS 4500/4550: creating and researching a Chapter for the Association for Supply Chain Management at ECU
- KINE 4502/4991: How Does Physical Activity Affect Brain Signals
- BIOL 3504/3550/4995: Molt and courtship behavior progression in relation to social environment in the captive ruff sandpiper



Questions?

- Where do I send my advisee/student to find more information?

<https://honors.ecu.edu/academics/signature-honors-project/>

- Where do I go to find more information?

<https://go.ecu.edu/SHPmentors>

- Contact Katie Ford: fordk@ecu.edu

