1. **Academic Program of Study:**

The Undergraduate Research Honors Program (URHP) of study for Special Education will consist of 18 credit hours taken from among a selection of 24 credit hours of offered honors-level courses. Due to an anticipated small number of enrollees for the first few years, all courses will be offered as honors-enriched.

The courses proposed for the program of study are outlined below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Course & Title | Hours | Total Required Hours | Required Hours: Running Total |
| **Required** | SPED 2300-088 – Exceptional Learners in Schools and Communities | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| **Select 2**[If SPED 2300 has already been taken as a NON-honors course, Select 3] | SPED 3300- Instructional Planning for Students with Exceptional Learning Needs | 3 |  |  |
| SPED 4302- Family and Professional Partnerships | 3 |  |  |
| SPED 4367- Systematic Instruction for Functional and Academic Programming | 3 |  |  |
| SPED 4757- Evidence-Based Instruction in Reading and Language Arts | 3 |  |  |
|  |  | 6 | 9 |
| **Required** | **UHON 3008 – Foundations of Research**  | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| **EDFN 4008 – Honors Mentorship in Teaching** | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| **SPED 4018-088 – Honors Thesis in Special Education** | 6 | 6 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |
| *Overall Required Total hours* |  | 18 | (18) |

Bolded courses are absolutely required to be taken at the Honors level. Required courses at the 4000 cannot be taken prior to admission in the URHP program. (Students should be admitted to HiD long before the need for these courses.)

If students have already taken some lower-level courses on the curricula above before enrolling as Honors students, they may substitute another of the listed courses for the Honors credits.

1. **Student admission, retention, and graduation requirements**

The Undergraduate Research Honors Program for Special Education will accept incoming Freshmen as well as currently enrolled students who have earned no more than 60 college credit hours.

Entering freshmen applicants must have a minimum high school GPA of 3.8 on a 4.0 scale, or a minimum ACT composite score of 27 or equivalent SAT score. Currently enrolled student-applicants or transfer student-applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.5 and an ACT composite score of 25 or equivalent, or an equivalent SAT score. Accepted applicants must also submit a compelling, well-written essay with their application.

Applications should be completed and submitted to the Honors Coordinator for the Special Education Honors Program.

To remain in good standing with the Honors Program, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 for their academic careers at ETSU. Students who do not meet this minimum standard will be granted one probationary semester for correction before the student is suspended from the Honors Program and out-of-state tuition waivers or Undergraduate Research Honors Program scholarships are withdrawn. A student who demonstrates significant progress during the probationary period but does not yet meet minimum standards may be granted a second probationary semester, at the discretion of the Undergraduate Research Honors Program Admissions Committee.

Applicants may qualify for an in-state or out-of-state Undergraduate Research Honors Program Scholarship. Minimum requirements for the scholarship include, for incoming freshmen, an ACT score of 25 or higher and a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher. Students who receive this scholarship must enroll in at least 15 credit hours per semester (with the exception of the capstone semester, in which only 12 credit hours may be taken), maintaining the GPA required to remain in good standing with the Honors Program.

To graduate with Undergraduate Research Honors Program designation at ETSU, students must (1) have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25; (2) complete all required courses (Honors courses, General Education, Academic Proficiencies); and (3) complete and orally present the senior Honors thesis. In addition, all thesis grades must be B or higher.

1. **Program coordination and student advisement**

The Honors Coordinator, Dr. Pamela Mims, will provide advisement to URHP students toward the completion of their Undergraduate Research Honors Program designation. The Honors Coordinator will work with the student’s program advisor to ensure that all requirements are met both for the general degree and for the URHP program.

Enrichment Activities: Enrolled students will be encouraged to present their research at the ETSU Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Appalachian Student Research Forum, as well as attend these events before their final thesis year. Further, opportunities may arise for URHP students to present their research to College of Education faculty at regular faculty research meetings. If and when enrollment grows, the Honors Coordinator will explore further opportunities for enrichment, such as social gatherings or seminars.