

Honors College, UNC Charlotte

The Honors Faculty

Honors faculty are members of the UNC Charlotte academic community who have distinguished themselves in scholarly activities and/or innovative instruction. Honors Faculty teach University and Departmental honors courses; develop and manage Honors programs; encourage students to join Honors programs; direct, supervise, and mentor honors students; and serve the Honors College and its programs as needed. Honors Faculty may stand for election to the Honors Council. Faculty may be appointed and reappointed per the criteria listed below, in accordance to the rules of the Honors Council. It is the responsibility of the Honors Council to ensure that its members meet overall standards of scholarship, teaching, and professional activities.

Definition of members of Honors Faculty

All full-time faculty members of the following ranks, and who meet the qualifications established by the Honors Faculty and approved by the Honors Council and the University Faculty Council, are eligible to be appointed to the Honors Faculty:

- Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor (Tenure Track)
- Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor (Library)
- Teaching Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor
- Clinical Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor
- Research Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor
- Professor of Practice/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor
- Senior Lecturer/Lecturer

Ordinarily, a member of the Honors Faculty holds the terminal degree in their field of expertise, but outstanding faculty without the terminal degree may be appointed. However, all appointees to the Honors Faculty must demonstrate scholarly and/or creative engagement through some of the following: research, publication, presentation, public performance, scholarship of teaching, or other aspects of scholarly and/or creative engagement.

Responsibilities of the Honors Faculty

Members of the Honors Faculty may:

- serve on the Honors Council
- serve as chairperson of the Honors Council (if tenured)
- vote in their Colleges, or at-large, for members of the Honors Council
- vote on amendments to the Bylaws of the Honors Council
- teach Honors courses
- participate in Honors instruction
- serve on committees, subcommittees, and task forces for the Honors College
- mentor Honors students
- serve as member or chair of honors capstone/thesis project committees
- direct Honors programs in departments, colleges, or other units

Note: Honors courses may be taught by qualified faculty members, including part-time faculty members, who are not members of the Honors Faculty, with the concurrence of the Dean of the Honors College. Similarly, an interested and qualified faculty member may serve as a member of a honors capstone/thesis project committee, as a first step in participation in Honors programs, without being a member of the Honors Faculty. The Honors Faculty includes those faculty who are appropriately part of the governance of Honors programs on campus.

Procedures for Appointment to the Honors Faculty

- Nominations are accepted during the annual nomination cycle. Faculty may choose to self-nominate, or may be nominated by their department chair (or their designee) using the nomination application provided by the Honors College.
- Nomination forms must include a clear narrative describing how the nominee meets the criteria for appointment or reappointment. See section below for these criteria.
- Nomination forms will be accompanied by a curriculum vitae that provides evidence of appropriate scholarly and/or instructional accomplishments.
- Appointment to the Honors Faculty shall be for five years. Nominations for appointment will be reviewed by a committee of the Honors Council, subject to approval by the Dean of the Honors College.
- Faculty may be reappointed as long as they meet the criteria for Honors Faculty.
- Normally, appointments begin on July 1, and end on June 30. Each spring, the Honors College will send notification to the academic departments listing those members of the Honors Faculty whose term expires at the end of the year.
- The first charter members of the Honors Faculty were appointed based on a list developed by the Dean (then Executive Director) of the Honors College, in consultation with current faculty and staff involved in Honors programs across the campus. One-third of charter members were chosen at random for three-year terms; one-third for four-year terms; one-third for five-year terms. This was a pragmatic step to stagger the calendar for reappointments.

Criteria for Appointment to the Honors Faculty

- The appropriate terminal degree for the relevant academic discipline is preferred. Outstanding candidates who lack the terminal degree should demonstrate equivalent education or experience.
- Evidence of ongoing, regular creative and/or scholarly contributions which are disseminated in professionally recognized venues, including publication, presentation, and/or exhibition in peer-reviewed and other professional settings.
- Evidence of continuing active engagement with one or more Honors programs, through mentoring students, developing programs, directing student research, serving on committees, teaching courses, etc.
- For initial appointments of new faculty, evidence from previous institutions may be submitted.

History

May 7, 2013: Endorsed by University Honors Council

April 12, 2024: Revised [updated language from Executive Director to Dean, updated faculty ranks, updated language to allow self-nominations as approved by Honors Council]

April 24, 2024: Revisions approved by Faculty Council