PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE
UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2010-2012

NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM(S):

LIBERAL ARTS HONORS

EXPLAIN CHANGE(S) TO DEGREE PROGRAM:

For the Liberal Arts Honors Plan I Freshman Program, we now specify the two classes that we require students to take during the first year: LAH 102H The Idea of the Liberal Arts and an honors lower-division writing component. Also, the description now clarifies how admissions applications are evaluated, stating that the student’s commitment to studying the liberal arts is considered.

Indicate pages in the Undergraduate Catalog where changes will be made.
p. 305 of the 2008-2010 Undergraduate Catalog

GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S):

The changes for the 2010-2012 catalog make our freshman admissions process more transparent and clarify our expectations of incoming first year students. In terms of the admissions process, we now include “commitment to the liberal arts” as one of the criteria when evaluating admission applications for the LAH Freshman Program. When reviewing applications, priority is given to students dedicated to receiving a liberal arts education. Adding this statement into the catalog makes our admissions process more transparent to prospective students.

The description of the Liberal Arts Honors, Plan I, First Year Program now mentions specifically that we expect students to take our LAH 102H The Idea of the Liberal Arts and one LAH lower-division writing component as part of our program. Historically, first year LAH students have always taken LAH 102H. This course, taken only on a credit/no credit basis, gives students an overview of the liberal arts through lectures from various faculty members and strengthens writing skills through weekly essay assignments. The first year LAH students are matched with writing tutors - carefully selected upper-class LAH students - who provide feedback on writing technique and style. The second required course is a designated honors lower-division writing component, which first year students have been encouraged to take for the past several years. We are formalizing these requirements in the catalog to clarify our program expectations and to affirm our program’s mission of developing strong writing skills.

SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE(S):

Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? No.
If yes, then how?
Will this proposal change the number of required hours for degree completion? No. If yes, please explain.

Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? No. If yes, please explain.

**COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS:**
(Circle yes or no)

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<th>Department</th>
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<td>College</td>
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Please include a draft of the catalog copy on an attached page. The draft should be based on the text of the current catalog available at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/pages/catalog_chgs/catcopy.html.
On page 305, under the heading ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, in the LIBERAL ARTS HONORS PROGRAMS, PLAN I subsection of the College of Liberal Arts chapter of the Undergraduate Catalog, 2008-2010, make the following changes:

Liberal Arts Honors Programs, Plan I

Liberal Arts Honors Programs coordinates the various honors opportunities available to Plan I students in the college: the Freshman Honors Program, the departmental honors programs, and the Liberal Arts Honors Program. This array of choices is designed for students who seek flexibility and choice in their honors work and for those who want to pursue an honors degree in a particular discipline.

The Freshman Honors Program gives [students the opportunity to enroll in special one-hour classes, have access to supplemental academic advising, and take honors sections of core courses. It serves as preparation for departmental honors programs and the upper-division Liberal Arts Honors Program. Students must apply to the Freshman Honors Program when they apply to the University. Admission decisions are based on the applicant’s SAT or ACT score, high school record, and an essay.] selected students access to honors sections of basic education requirement courses. Each student admitted to the program is required to take an active part in two special courses in the first year: LAH 102H, The Idea of Liberal Arts, and one designated honors writing course. The program serves as a preparation for departmental honors programs and for the upper-division Liberal Arts Honors Program. Students must apply to the Freshman Honors Program when they apply to the university. Admission decisions are based on the applicant’s commitment to the liberal arts, test scores, high school records, and an application essay.

The upper-division Liberal Arts Honors Program offers challenging and intensive interdisciplinary courses taught by distinguished faculty members. Students who have completed at least sixty semester hours of coursework and have earned a University grade point average of at least 3.50 are eligible to enroll in these courses. There is no application process.

The requirements for graduation with liberal arts honors are (1) graduation from the College of Liberal Arts with the Bachelor of Arts, Plan I, the Bachelor of Science in Geography and the Environment, or the Bachelor of Science in Psychology; (2) a University grade point average of at least 3.50 at graduation; (3) completion of at least three upper-division liberal arts honors (LAH) courses with grades of A in two of the courses and a grade of at least B in the third; and (4) completion in residence at the University of at least sixty semester hours of coursework counted toward the degree. The statement “Liberal Arts Honors” appears on the academic record of each graduate who fulfills these requirements. The student may earn both liberal arts honors and special honors in his or her major department.

The three upper-division liberal arts honors courses required for graduation with liberal arts honors may be used, with a fourth LAH course, to fulfill the twelve-hour minor requirement for the Bachelor of Arts, Plan I, unless the work in the minor is specified by the student's major department.