**Communication Department Honors Information Brief**

*What is department honors?* A curricular program that involves taking 2 COM honors courses and completing an honors thesis

*Who’s eligible?* Majors that meet a minimum GPA of 3.45 (overall and in the major) are invited to participate via email invitation from the honors coordinator. Accepting the invitation then admits you to the program.

*Can I complete department and university honors?* Yes. You can also do either program separately.

*How do I graduate with department honors?* Complete 2 COM honors courses (such courses will typically be sections within sections of “regular courses” and have 410 or 411 section numbers) and earn at least a B in each course, while maintaining an overall and major GPA of at least 3.45. (You can also complete courses via honors contracts.) Complete a thesis (typically in your graduating semester) by taking COM 4511, and successfully defend it. A checklist is below.

*Who’s the honors coordinator?* Jennifer Gray, Ph.D., Dept. of Communication, 131 Walker Hall, grayjb@appstate.edu, 828-262-7201; she can answer your questions, and offer assistance and guidance on this program.

*Are there other resources for department honors students?* There is an honors handbook for faculty and students on the department website; here we also list current or upcoming course offerings and post a link to the Honors College website. Communication to students is sent out via email, Facebook, and Twitter. Face-to-face meetings with the honors coordinator are also conducted per student requests.

*What kind of paperwork and deadlines are involved?* Most of these involve the thesis. There is no application or official deadline for the overall program; there is simply the invitation and acceptance noted above. Invitations are sent out once per year, typically in the fall semester. We can also admit students through referrals from professors and student inquiries, depending on eligibility.

In the thesis semester, within the first week of that semester, use the thesis application form (on the Honors College website and linked in the department honors handbook) and a special course form to register for COM 4511 (unless you’re just in university honors, in which case you’d register for HON 4010 and follow the Honors College process). Complete the thesis with the aid of your director (a COM professor) and your second reader (someone in another department, perhaps in your minor, or from another university or a professional setting related to your thesis topic) and schedule a defense at least 2 weeks before the start of finals week and announce the defense at least 2 weeks before its date. Then, successfully defend the thesis and get submit it according to the appropriate guidelines and per the appropriate procedures.

The only other paperwork you may need is an honors contract if you complete one in lieu of taking an official honors course to meet one of your 2 honors COM courses; this form is also linked in the department handbook and on the Honors College website.

***Department Honors Checklist***

***\_\_Receive and accept invitation from honors coordinator to join program***

***\_\_ Maintain GPA of at least 3.45 (overall and major)***

***\_\_Take a COM Honors Course (earn at least a B)***

***\_\_ Take a second COM Honors Course (earn at least a B)***

***\_\_ Complete and defend a Thesis***

***\*Register for COM 4511 (if you’re in department honors or both department and university honors) within first week of thesis semester, after securing a director and second reader; use thesis application form and special course form***

 ***\*Meet with director and second reader and complete project. Complete thesis draft.***

 ***\*Schedule defense at least 2 weeks before first day of final exams. Announce defense at least 2 weeks before defense date. Successfully defend thesis.***

 ***\*Submit final thesis according to the appropriate guidelines and procedures.***