

## **Departmental Honors in Early Childhood, Youth, and Family Studies**

Students who are excelling in their Early Childhood, Youth, and Family Studies (ECYFS) major may elect to participate in an individualized departmental honors program beginning in their sophomore year at Ball State University. Those students who fulfill the specified requirements will earn the distinction of graduating with Departmental Honors in Early Childhood, Youth, and Family Studies. This distinction will be recorded on their official academic transcripts, noted in departmental records and the Honors College records, and printed in the University's Commencement Program. Students who have earned departmental honors also will be recognized at the annual departmental awards event.

To sign up for Departmental Honors, students must complete the yellow registration card at the Honors College.

### **Eligibility:**

The eligibility requirements for departmental honors in Early Childhood, Youth, and Family Studies include the following:

- An overall GPA of 3.25 or higher
- A GPA of 3.5 or higher in academic major
- Sophomore standing

### **Requirements:**

To earn the designation of "Departmental Honors in Early Childhood, Youth, and Family Studies" students must meet the following guidelines:

- Earn at least a B+ and Departmental Honors credit in 3 approved courses within one's major or another course approval by the ECYFS department representative.
  - Any 300 or 400 level course can qualify (practicum, internship, or student teaching courses should typically be avoided unless there are compelling circumstances), as long as the course instructor agrees to work with the student.
- Complete an approved honors thesis (HONR 499) OR creative project (HONR 499N) within one's major area of study.

### **Procedures:**

1. Within the first two weeks of the semester, the student must inform the instructor teaching the course that they wish to take the course for Departmental Honors credit.
2. If the instructor agrees to provide the Departmental Honors credit for the course, the student and the instructor work together to decide what type of academic work the student will do to earn Departmental Honors credit. The Departmental Honors work should forward the student's knowledge and extend beyond the requirements of the course. Departmental Honors work might take such forms as a research-based paper, assisting with a research project, creative projects related to one's area of study, making a

presentation in class or at a professional conference, or another learning experience approved by the instructor.

3. Based on above decisions, the student should complete the **Departmental Honors Project Proposal** form. This form will be signed by the student and the instructor of the course. The student should distribute copies of this form to the ECYFS department representative and the Honors College.
4. At the end of the semester in which the Departmental Honors credit is being earned, the student will fill out the **Departmental Honors Project Completion** form (for each course project). This form must be signed by the student and their instructor and submitted to the Honors College by the student before the last day of classes.

Dr. Jill Walls is our department representative ([jkwalls@bsu.edu](mailto:jkwalls@bsu.edu)). See forms below.

**Departmental Honors in Early Childhood, Youth, and Family Studies  
Project Proposal**

Student:	Student ID #:
Current GPA:	Course Number:
Semester of Enrollment:	
Supervising Faculty Member:	

Rationale (A general statement describing why this project is of interest to you)

Activities (Specific activities you will participate in as you complete your project)

Timeline (Approximate dates when you plan to complete your activities)

Outcome (What the final format of your project will be)

**Agreement: I understand the nature of the project described and agree to complete the work as described.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**Supervising Faculty Approval**

\_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**Departmental Honors in Early Childhood, Youth, and Family Studies  
Project Completion**

Student:	Student ID #:
Semester of Enrollment:	Course Number:
Supervising Faculty Member:	

**The project previously described to be counted towards the designation, “Departmental Honors in Early Childhood, Youth, and Family Studies,” has been completed and accepted as satisfactory work by the supervising faculty member.**

Date of project completion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (printed)                      Student Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Name (printed)                      Faculty Signature                      Date