

Honors College

The University Honors College provides students of high academic ability in all majors an opportunity to enhance their college educational experience with challenging and provocative courses as well as opportunities for cultural enrichment, semester internships, and study abroad programs. Honors faculty, the honors dean, and the honors assistant dean, comprise the Honors Advisory Council, which plans and executes extracurricular activities, including luncheons, service projects, and cultural events. Selected alumni and friends of the Honors College comprise the Honors College Advisory Board, which provides strategic advice and feedback about the program.

Benefits

- Additional honors academic scholarships
- Intellectually challenging interdisciplinary curriculum
- Small classes with the honors professors
- Distinctive transcript and diploma designation as Honors College Scholar or Honors College Graduate
- Research presentation and publishing opportunities
- Participation in local, regional, and national conferences
- Priority access to study abroad opportunities
- Priority placement in prestigious semester internship programs
- Eligibility for prominent graduate studies fellowships
- Enhanced opportunities for graduate and professional school

Affiliations

- Council on Undergraduate Research
- National Collegiate Honors Council
- Great Plains Honors Council
- National Association of Fellowship Advisors
- The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars

Faculty

- Stacy Patty, Ph.D., Dean
- Amanda Boston, Ph.D.
- Cathy Box, Ph.D.
- Tim Byars, J.D.
- Carole Carroll, Ph.D.
- Russell Dabbs, Ph.D.
- Kregg Fehr, Ph.D.
- Jennifer Hardin, Ph.D.
- Yvonne Harwood, M.A.
- Kenneth Hawley, Ph.D.
- Steven Lemley, Ph.D.
- Gonzalo Ramirez, Ph.D.
- Byron Rogers, Ph.D.
- Mark Sneed, Ph.D.

Admission Requirements

Applications for the Honors College must complete the online Honors College Application. Acceptance in the Honors College is based on the following criteria:

First-Time Freshmen:

- ACT composite score of 27 or higher, SAT Critical Reading and Math score of 1210, or SAT16 English and Math scores of 1290 or higher;
- High school record of coursework and extracurricular activities, and
- Online application essay.

Transfer Students:

- ACT composite score of 27 or higher, SAT Critical Reading and Math score of 1210, or SAT16 English and Math scores of 1290 or higher and an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher; or
- Completion of 12-15 honors hours of honors courses from a two-year college honors program with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher; and
- Online application essay.

Current Students

- ACT composite score of 25 or higher, SAT Critical Reading and Math score of 1130, or SAT16 English and Math scores of 1220 or higher;
- Written recommendation of a faculty member to the Honors College dean; and
- Online application essay.

Honors applicants who meet these criteria are reviewed by a faculty committee and may be offered admission into the Honors College. Scholarship amounts for Honors College students are determined after a review of the complete honors application package.

Honors Tracks

Qualifying students from any major can be admitted into the Honors College. Honors students select from two academic tracks in the Honors College curriculum.

Honors College Graduate (24 hours)

- 6 hours from BIB Honors Courses (3 hours for Bible Majors)
- 3 hours from ENG Honors Courses
- 3 hours from HIS Honors Courses
- 12 hours from Honors Courses (15 hours for Bible Majors)

Honors College Scholar (30 hours)

- 6 hours from BIB Honors Courses (3 hours for Bible Majors)
- 3 hours from ENG Honors Courses
- 3 hours from HIS Honors Courses
- 12 hours from Honors Courses (15 hours for Bible Majors)
- Completion of Honors Thesis Program

Honors Thesis Program

To graduate as an Honors College Scholar, students must complete the Honors Thesis Program. Students must apply and be accepted to the Honors Thesis Program before earning 90 credit hours or one year prior to graduation.

The Honors Thesis Program requires students to complete HON 1154 (Freshman Honors Seminar), HON 3154 (Junior Honors Seminar), and HON 4182 (Honors Thesis). HON 3154 and 4182 are taken concurrently.

Advanced Credit for Honors Courses

Students who enter the honors program will receive advanced standing credit as follows.

- English 1301. Automatic credit if students have earned at least a 28 on the English portion of the ACT or 670 on the critical reading portion of the SAT.
- English 1302. Contingent credit is given if students have earned at least 28 on the English portion of the ACT or 670 on the SAT Critical Reading test, or have earned credit for ENG 1301 by taking it prior to admission to the university, or by passing the ENG 1301 CLEP test. Students who pass the honors core English course, HON 2307, with a grade of B or better will receive credit for English 1302 as well. Students who do not earn a B or better in HON 2307 must enroll in ENG 1302 in a subsequent semester.
- English 1301 and 1302. Credit is given for a pass rate of 80% or better on the Freshman College Composition CLEP exam. Students who do not have at least a 28 on the English portion of the ACT have the option to take these examinations.
- Math 1311. Automatic credit if students have earned at least a 28 on the math portion of the ACT or 670 on the Math portion of the SAT.

Transfer Policy

Only courses that are accepted as honors credit will apply toward the 24 hour honors course requirement. Students with 60 or more hours of credit must complete a minimum of 12 hours of honors courses offered at the university to be named Honors College Graduates. Students with 60 or more hours of credit must complete a minimum of 12 hours of honors courses offered at the university and the Honors Thesis Program to be named Honors College Scholars.

Minor in Honors Studies

The Honors Studies Minor is interdisciplinary. Students from outside the Honors College may pursue this minor. Lower level courses must be Honors (HON or (H)). Upper level courses must be Honors (HON or (H)) or contracted as Honors courses. See Honors College personnel for more information.

- Completion of 18 semester hours, 9 of which must be upper level
- No more than 12 semester hours from the major may be counted toward the minor
- At least 6 semester hours not directly related to the major
- Completion of the minor with at least a 3.0 grade point average