

Updated Honors Policies (Fall 2018)

Completing Honors Credits and Remaining a Member in Good Standing

- To graduate with Honors status on your transcript and diploma, a student should complete the 24 credit Honors requirements (see “Honors Program Requirements” document) within four years, an average of one 3-credit course per semester.
- Barring illness/extreme circumstances out of the student’s control, a student whose overall GPA drops below 3.2 for two consecutive semesters or more will be dropped from the Honors Program and lose Honors status. A student who does not take at least one Honors course within two consecutive semesters or more will similarly be dropped from the Program and lose Honors status.
- Losing Honors status (for either of the reasons mentioned above) will also result in loss of an Honors tuition waiver, if one was granted, and priority registration benefits.

Graduation Preparation

- At the start of the semester in which an Honors student intends to graduate, the Honors Director should be notified by the student of those plans, so that fulfilled requirements can be checked and confirmed for graduation with Honors status.
- Towards the beginning of the same semester, graduating students should also inform the Honors Director of which track (Research Scholar or Leader in Action) they are completing, so that the appropriate track can be notated on both the student’s transcript and diploma, alongside their Honors Program status.

Honors Program Office

- The Honors Program Office (Columbia Hall, B 307) is open for business Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.
- Students should make appointments with their Honors faculty via email or Starfish. The Honors Director is often available for walk-ins, although scheduled appointments (via email or Starfish) are preferred and encouraged. The Director will not be available on Fridays due to research obligations.
- Students are encouraged to use the Honors lounge/office space for studying, quiet socializing, lunching, group work, etc. Please be respectful of others and clean your space when leaving.
- Most Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00 pm, we will have Brown Bag Lunch in the Honors Office. Bring your lunches and visit with other Honors students, faculty, and staff.

Registration for Classes and Advising

- Beginning with registration for Spring 2019, Honors students will have the ability to sign up for Honors courses and sections on their own, through Campus Connect (without permission numbers). The exception to this would be registering for HON 489 (Senior Thesis/Project) or in registering for Honors course credit for civic engagement/community service (more on this later).
- Honors students will not be required to meet individually with the Honors Director, faculty, or staff for advising to be able to register for regular Honors courses, as long as they are Honors students in good standing.
- Honors students in good standing have priority registration; thus, Honors courses are available to all Honors students on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The Honors Director and other Honors faculty/staff are happy to meet with students for advising on course selection, goals, etc., as needed.

Senior Honors Theses and Projects

- Students entering the Honors Program in Fall 2018 or afterward will have the option of a 3-credit Senior Honors Project (for Research Scholars) or a 3-credit Leadership Capstone (for Leaders in Action) in their senior year, depending on their chosen track. Students under the older Honors curriculum (those who entered the program prior to Fall 2018) may choose from the following options: completing a 3-credit Senior Honors Project, or completing a two-semester Honors thesis, worth up to 9 credits.
- Honors students who are also Psychology majors will have additional responsibilities in working on a senior thesis/project, if that thesis/project is psychology-related. Please consult with the Honors Director and the Director of Psychology Undergraduate Programs (Dr. Heather Terrell) for more information prior to your senior year.
- Honors Research Scholars who will be completing a Senior Honors Project should consult the guidelines for the SHP (see attached).
- Current Honors students who intend to write senior theses should submit a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) along with a short proposal (according to guidelines laid out for a simple proposal in the SHP). These documents should be submitted before or at the very start of the semester in which the student hopes to enroll in senior thesis/project credits so that a permission number can be provided for enrolling in those credits.
- It is no longer required to have an Honors Committee contact for your senior thesis/project committee. Your committee can consist of your primary faculty advisor and you; you and your primary faculty advisor can elect to add more committee members or an Honors contact, if you choose.

Service and Tuition Waivers

- The Honors Program strongly encourages students to be active in community service and to pursue civic engagement opportunities. We believe that such voluntary service should be recognized but not linked to financial incentives. Therefore, beginning in the Fall 2018 semester, those students who are on Honors Tuition Waivers will not be required to complete service hours to maintain their waivers. (To keep a waiver, students will still be required to: be enrolled in at least 12 credits each semester, including one Honors course; will achieve a grade of “B” or higher in all Honors courses, and will meet the overall 3.2 GPA requirement.)

Service Learning and Honors Course Credits

- In order to recognize the importance of service learning and civic engagement for Honors students, we have embedded these expectations within the new dual track curriculum. Students may gain 6-9 Honors credits toward their 24 required credits from their community service/civic engagement work.
- A new class heading, “Honors Experiences” (or HON 260), will likely be available by Fall 2019 for students to get credit for their service work. More information, including detailed criteria for responsible service work, a list of participating organizations/agencies, and a grading system for “Honors Experiences” are currently being developed; the aim is to have this information posted on the Honors website by the end of the Fall 2018 semester.
- The number of credits for civic engagement in HON 260 will be linked to the documented number of hours worked. (For example, 15 hours in one semester = 1 credit.) Registering for these credits will require a permission number from the Honors Director.

These policies and related forms will soon be uploaded to our Honors website. Thank you for your patience as the website is updated with new information.

~Rebecca Rozelle-Stone, Interim Director of the Honors Program