

# Honors Program

The University Honors Program 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 director, and the provost, and the honors student representatives comprise the Honors Advisory Council, which makes policy and offers guidance to the program. Elected students comprise the Student Honors Advisory Council, which plans and executes extracurricular activities, including luncheons, service projects, and cultural events.

## Benefits of the Honors Program

- Additional honors academic scholarships
- Intellectually challenging interdisciplinary curriculum
- Small classes with the honors professors
- Distinctive transcript and diploma designation as Honors Scholar
- 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

- National Collegiate Honors Council
- Great Plains Honors Council
- The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars

## Honors Faculty

Stacy Patty, Ph.D., Director; Guy Brown, Ph.D.; Carole Carroll, Ph.D.; Gary Estep, Ph.D.; Kregg Fehr, Ph.D.; Kenneth Hawley, Ph.D.; Jesse Long, Ph.D.; Tracy Mack M.A.; Julie Marshall, Ph.D.; J.D. Wallace, Ph.D.

## Admission Requirements for the Honors Program

Acceptance in the honors program is based on the following criteria

- ACT composite score of 27 or higher, or
- SAT composite score of 1210 or higher on the critical reading and quantitative sections

Incoming students who meet these criteria are offered admission into the honors program and an honors scholarship, subject to the signing of an acceptance contract. Students whose incoming ACT scores exceed 31 or SAT scores exceed 1360 may also apply for the Helen Devitt-Jones Scholars Award by contacting the director.

## Standard for Participation

Continuation in the honors program is based on the following criteria.

- A 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA in honors courses
- A 3.25 or higher cumulative GPA in courses

Falling below either or both of these standards in a given semester places students on honors probation. If in the following long semester, students on honors probation do not improve their GPA, they will be suspended from the program and lose

the honors scholarship. If students on honors probation improve their GPA back to minimum standards in the following semester after they are put on probation, they will be removed from probation. If they improve but do not meet minimum standards, they will remain on probation as long as they continue to improve until they reach minimum standards. Honors students who successfully complete the Honors Program course requirements will graduate as Honors Scholars.

## Honors Curriculum

Honors Scholars will enter the University Honors Program, which is open to students of any major. The program consists of 30 hours of required honors credit, as follows.

An honors core of 12 semester hours. The core courses include literature, Bible, history, and science, which satisfy either university or departmental core requirements. All honors students should take these courses as the foundation of the honors experience.

An additional 15 hours of courses designated for honors credit.

Options in this area include the following.

Honors-specific courses, such as HON 3352, Topics in Philosophy

Honors-designated sections of majors courses, such as ART 4308H, Honors Art Theory and Criticism, and BIO 4312H, Honors Animal Physiology.

Honors contract arrangements, where honors students and their departmental major instructors agree on more challenging work within a regular course offering in order to earn honors credit.

A 3 hour honors thesis course. This capstone course, HON 4380, allows students to synthesize their honors experience with their departmental major in a research project. In some cases departmental capstone courses may substitute for this course.

Although the University Honors Program is not a unique degree major, most of its courses will substitute for university and departmental core requirements. The following table includes the normal substitutions.

### Bible

HON 3308 for BIB 3310

### Communication

HON 3340 for COM 2311 or COM 3340

### History

HON 2304 for HIS 3 hours

### Science

HON 1304 for BIO, CHE, or PHY

### Departmental Core

HON 2301 for ENG 2301 or ENG 3 hours

### Major

HON 4380 for departmental capstone course

Supporting Courses and Electives  
HON 3352, 4352 as designated by department

## Advanced Standing in the Honors Program

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 2301, 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 2301 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 credit. The University Honors Program will award honors credit to transfer students on a case by case basis in consultation with the director and appropriate college dean.