Honors Program B.A./B.S.

Honors Degrees

Students who successfully complete their University Honors requirements and mandatory College Honors thesis or capstone project qualify for the special degree Bachelor of Arts (Honors) or Bachelor of Science (Honors), whichever is appropriate. The distinctiveness of these degrees is acknowledged on the diploma and on the student’s transcript.

Learning Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Students will pursue a program of study of interdisciplinary courses and courses offered in traditional disciplines.

Objective 1.1: Explore issues in a multiplicity of disciplines and integrate knowledge from those disciplines.

Objective 1.2: Demonstrate analytic and critical skills in examining literary, artistic, historical, philosophical, theological, sociological, political, scientific, legal, linguistic, or business texts.

Goal 2: Students will engage in rigorous thought, critical analysis, and synthesis in the context of problem solving.

Objective 2.1: Engage in independent scholarly or creative research, analysis, and synthesis that prompt them to invent written arguments that reflect the acquisition of knowledge, insights, and skills.

Objective 2.2: Demonstrate confidence and clarity in speaking in classroom presentation, discussion, and debate that demand data gathering, analysis, and critical reflection.

Objective 2.3: Address topical, social, scientific, cultural, or business issues either inside or outside the classroom, and propose original, creative, and enduring solutions to real world issues and problems.

Objective 2.4: Engage in self-reflection and self-evaluation to promote intellectual self-confidence or spiritual humility.

Goal 3: Students will produce a scholarly or creative project or capstone experience under the guidance of members of the Honors faculty.

Objective 3.1: Engage in independent scholarly or creative research, analysis, and synthesis that prompt them to invent written arguments that reflect the acquisition of knowledge, insights, and skills.

Objective 3.2: Explore aesthetic dimensions in creative works – stories, poems, plays, paintings, sculpture, architecture, film, and music – and learn the style, perspective, and techniques of a major artist or movement.

Goal 4: Students will create an intellectual environment through scholarly, creative, social, cultural, or business activities.

Objective 4.1: Engage in independent scholarly or creative research, analysis, and synthesis that prompt them to invent written arguments that reflect the acquisition of knowledge, insights, and skills.

Objective 4.2: Explore aesthetic dimensions in creative works – stories, poems, plays, paintings, sculpture, architecture, film, and music – and learn the style, perspective, and techniques of a major artist or movement.

Successful completion of University Honors requires at least eight semesters of Honors courses. Students typically schedule Honors coursework in each of the eight semesters, although adjustments may be made to this schedule on the advice of the Honors Director. The following further restrictions apply to the minimum eight-course requirement:

- At least two courses must be team-taught interdisciplinary Honors courses.
- At least two courses must be honors courses satisfying Philosophy or Theology GEP requirements. One of these two must be in the Faith & Reason or Philosophical Anthropology area of the GEP.
- Two courses must be the mandatory College Honors senior thesis or capstone, as determined by individual departments. The College Honors thesis or capstone will satisfy two of the eight courses required for the University Honors diploma.

To remain in the Honors program, students are expected to maintain a 3.50 GPA, which is the minimum required for graduation with University Honors. Students who are not making reasonable progress toward the eight-course requirement or whose GPA is below 3.50 are subject to removal from the Honors Program.

Students are assigned an advisor from the department in which they declare a major. They should, however, consult with the Honors Director and Associate Director to assure that their course schedules are arranged in such a way as to integrate the fulfillment of university requirements with those of the Honors Program.