

# The Honors Program

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## Mission

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**THE HONORS PROGRAM** exists to provide academic incentives and recognition for particularly talented and dedicated students in all departments of the University. Honors courses are designed to offer intellectual challenge in diverse contexts, to promote an open spirit of inquiry, to develop critical thinking abilities, and to facilitate academic community among the honors students and all segments of the University.

### Eligibility:

A Composite score of 21 on the ACT qualifies an entering freshman to become active in the Honors Program. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 qualifies a student with twelve or more university hours to join the Honors Program. Freshman Honors Program students whose GPA at the end of their first semester is between 2.75 and 3.0 are allowed one probation semester in which they must establish a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA to continue in the Program. Other students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 to remain in the Program from semester to semester. For particular courses, academic departments may establish additional standards of eligibility.

## Types of Honors Courses

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### Honors Courses

are designed by the different academic departments specifically for students in the Honors Program. These are indicated by an H following the course number (e.g. HIST 202H).

### Honors Sections

are special sections of multi-section core courses offered particularly for Honors students. Classes

are usually smaller, permitting more dialogue among teachers and students. These are also indicated by an H following the course number.

### **Interdisciplinary Honors Courses**

typically cross normal departmental boundaries to explore subjects in diverse contexts. These courses are indicated by an HONR prefix.

### **The Freshman Honors Seminar**

is a twelve-hour block of four integrated Honors courses, two in English and two in History of Western Civilization, required of freshmen who intend to earn either the Honors Diploma or the Honors in Liberal Studies Diploma.

### **H-Options.**

Prerequisite: active status in the University Honors Program or, for non-Honors students, a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75. An H-Option is a course in which a student may earn Honors credit by completing a special research project. The primary purpose of the H-Option is to permit Honors students doing Senior Thesis projects to receive Honors credit in approved upper-division courses. Students may elect to take H-Options in any academic department of the University. To take an H-Option, a student must make arrangements with the course instructor by the third week in the semester of the course and must complete, with the instructor, an "H-Option Form" (available in the Honors Program Office).

## **Core Curriculum Options for Honors Students**

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Students satisfy academic requirements for the Honors Program by enrolling in courses that make up one of three Alternative Core Curriculum Options for Honors Students. Since Honors curricula are based on core curricula, most of these courses are required in every student's major. The three options are:

- (A) the curriculum for the Certificate of Excellence Award;
- (B) the curriculum for the Honors Diploma;
- (C) the curriculum for the Honors Diploma in Liberal Studies.

## **Three Alternate Core Curriculum Options for Honors Students**

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### **THE CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE**

The Board of Regents will grant the Certificate of Excellence to students who complete the Suggested Core Curriculum shown below. For Honors Program privileges, students pursuing the Certificate of Excellence must complete a minimum of 12 hours in Honors courses during their undergraduate careers. Students must complete 6 Honors hours by the time they achieve junior status (64 hours). All courses having a "HONR" prefix or "H" suffix (e.g., HIST 101H) are accepted for this requirement.

## **CORE A**

**(any 12 Honors Hours)**

- 3 English Composition
- 3 English Composition
- 3 Literature 200 level or above
- 3 History, Philosophy, Speech or Lit
- 3 History, Philosophy, Speech or Lit
- 3 History, Philosophy, Speech or Lit
  
- 3 Mathematics 160, 161, 161H or higher 1
- 3 Mathematics 162 or higher 1
- 4 Biological Science 2 (GBIO 151/152)
- 4 Natural Science or Biological Science 3  
(Chem 121/123 or Phys 191/193 or GBIO 153/154)
- 4 Natural Science (Chem 121+ or Phys 191+)
- 3 Music, Visual Arts, Dance or Theatre
- 6 Foreign Language 100-level 3
- 6 Foreign Language 200-level 3
  
- 6 Economics, Geography, Psychology,  
Anthropology, Sociology or Government
- 6 Economics, Geography, Psychology,  
Anthropology, Sociology or Government

Computer Literacy (same requirement as in major)

**51 (57 actual) core curriculum hours**

## **THE HONORS DIPLOMA**

For each course shown below, a student may choose either the course indicated in Column B or a corresponding option in Column A if an option appears on the same line. However, the 12-hour Freshman Honors Seminar (including ENGL 121H/HIST 101H and ENGL 122H/HIST 102H) is required. The 4 hours for the Senior Project/Thesis are required. A student in this curriculum must complete a minimum of 22 "Honors" (H-suffix and HONR) hours.

## CORE B

(H and HONR = Honors courses)

- 3 Ancient Epic: Lit & Comp (required)
- 3 Modern Epic: Lit & Comp (required)
- 3 English 231, 232, 291H or 292H 4
- 3 History of Western Civ 101H (required)
- 3 History of Western Civ 102H (required)
- 3 in one of the Humanities in Column A,  
or Honors 311 or 312
- 3
- 3 Mathematics 160, 161, 161H or higher 1
- 4 Mathematics 162 or higher 1
- 4 Biological Science 2 (same as Column A)
- 4 Natural Science or Biological Science (same as Column A)
- 3 Natural Science (same as Column A)
- 6 HONR 191: Interdisciplinary Arts, optional
- 6 Foreign Language 100-level 3  
Foreign Language 200-level 3
- 3
- 3 HONR 313: Ideas in Conflict III, optional
- 3 HONR 314: Ideas in Conflict IV, optional
- 1 H-Option: Senior Thesis Project (required)(in Major) 5  
HONR 300: Senior Thesis (required)

Computer Literacy (same requirement as in major)

**58 core curriculum hours**

## THE HONORS DIPLOMA IN LIBERAL STUDIES

For each course shown below a student may choose either the course indicated in Column C or a corresponding option in Column A if an option appears on the same line. However, the 12-hour Freshman Honors Seminar, 6 hours in U.S. History (either Honors or non-Honors), and the 12-hour Ideas in Conflict sequence are required. The 4 hours for the Senior Project/Thesis are required. A student in this curriculum must complete a minimum of 31 "Honors" (H-suffix and HONR) hours.

## CORE C

(H and HONR = Honors courses)

- 3 Ancient Epic: Lit & Comp (required)
- 3 Modern Epic: Lit & Comp (required)
- 3 English 231, 232, 291H or 292H 4
- 3 History of Western Civ 101H (required)
- 3 History of Western Civ 102H (required)
- 3 US History 201 or 201H (required)
- 3 US History 202 or 202H (required)
  
- 3 Mathematics 160, 161, 161H or higher 1
- 3 Mathematics 162 or higher 1
- 3 Biological Science 2 (same as Column A)
- 4 Natural Science or Biological Science  
(same as Column A)
- 4 Natural Science  
(same as Column A)
  
- 3 HONR 191: Interdisciplinary Arts, optional
- 6 Foreign Language 100-level 3
- 6 Foreign Language 200-level 3
  
- 3 HONR 311: Ideas in Conflict I (required)
- 3 HONR 312: Ideas in Conflict II (required)
- 3 HONR 313: Ideas in Conflict III (required)
- 3 HONR 314: Ideas in Conflict IV (required)
- 3 H-Option Senior Project (required)(in Major) 5
- 1 HONR 300: Senior Thesis (required)

Computer Literacy (same requirement as in major)

**67 core curriculum hours**

1 Mathematics 167 and 168 are the only Math courses above 161 that do not satisfy the Honors requirement.

2 None of the following may be used to satisfy science requirements for the Certificate of Excellence or an Honors Diploma: Earth Science courses; General Biology 111, 112, 106, and 107; Chemistry 101, 102, 105, and 106; Physics 100, 141, and 142. Zoo 102H is acceptable for students under catalogues before 1999-2000; it is not acceptable for students who enter the university in fall 1999 or later.

3 The Board of Regents "Suggested Core Curriculum" requires 6 hours of a foreign language at the 200-level. For all but students with advanced knowledge of a foreign language, the two courses at the 100-level are prerequisites for enrollment in 200-level foreign language course.

4 Literature options include English 231, 232, 291H, and 292H. English 230 is excluded for students pursuing an Honors Diploma or Honors in Liberal Studies Diploma.

5 An H-Option course in which a student may earn Honors credit by completing a special research project. The primary purpose of the H-Option is to permit Honors students doing Senior Thesis projects to receive Honors credit in approved upper-division courses. To take an H-Option, a student must make arrangements with the instructor of the course before the semester begins and must initiate the special research activities by the end of the third week.

### **Active Status in the Honors Program:**

Honors active status is not granted automatically but depends on the student's completion of the proper form in the Honors Program office. For full status in the Honors Program and entitlement to its benefits, freshmen students must either enroll in the Freshman Honors Seminar (see above) or take at least 18 hours in the Certificate of Excellence core curriculum in their first year (or first 32 total academic hours). To remain active in the Honors Program from semester to semester, a student must maintain the requisite GPA and complete the following numbers of Core hours for each level of academic rank:

**Freshman year: 18 Core hours in the first 32 academic hours**

**Sophomore year: 30 Core hours in the first 64 academic hours**

**Junior year: 42 Core hours in the first 96 academic hours**

Students who have Honors status and also meet other requirements that the Program may stipulate regarding minimum attendance at campus extracurricular events are entitled to all Honors student privileges.

The Honors Program Office serves as an advisory center for students pursuing the Certificate of Excellence awarded by the Board of Regents (see Board of Regents Certificate of Excellence elsewhere in this catalogue). Complete information about the Alternative Core Curriculum options and about Core courses offered each semester is available in the Honors Program office, 611 North Pine St.

## **Benefits of the Honors Program**

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In addition to the intellectual stimulation and friendships with other honors students that result from smaller classes, honors students receive early priority at registration and are eligible to live in Cardinal Newman Residence Hall. Honors students may also compete for honors scholarships and take part in state, regional, and national honors conventions. All honors work completed is designated on the student's transcript, and special documents are awarded for the Certificate of Excellence and

for each kind of Honors Diploma earned. Every active honors student is eligible to be a member of the Southeastern Honors Student Association.