

# The University Honors Program

The Honors Program at Southeastern is designed to prepare students to know and understand the most significant ideas, deeds, and events that have shaped our world and will shape the future; to have confidence in their abilities to think independently, write clearly, and speak effectively; and to be leaders in their communities and professions. It aims to prepare responsible individuals to be perpetual learners who realize their potential for a fully human, ethical, and prosperous life.

The Honors experience at Southeastern, as many of our alumni have testified, can make a profound difference in the value and effect of one's undergraduate education by broadening perspectives on the world and strengthening credentials for graduate, law, and medical schools and careers in education, government, business, research, and the health fields.

To provide highly motivated students a strong foundation in liberal education and career preparation, the Program offers honors sequences of integrated courses. In small classes that average fifteen, students enjoy conditions for learning at the peak of their abilities. Five Honors curriculum options or "paths," distinguished by comprehensive and in-depth coverage of the material in a learning community environment, facilitate discussion, debate, and intellectual friendship among students and with their professors. Rounding out the benefits of honors education at Southeastern are early-priority registration, travel opportunities, extracurricular events and lectures, honors residential accommodations, membership in the Honors Club, honors academic credit shown on the transcript, and the option to earn a Sophomore Honors Distinction Award.

**Admission Process.** A composite score of 24 on the ACT and a 3.0 high school GPA qualify an entering freshman to join; a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in 12 or more hours of university credit qualifies an advanced student to join. 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. Honors active status is not granted automatically but depends on the student's submitting an Application to Join at the Honors Program office, which serves as an advisory center for students pursuing an honors diploma. Each college may have special criteria for accepting students into its upper-division honors curricula. Transfer students, to earn awards, must meet minimum participation requirements in the University Honors Program (UHP). For advising regarding UHP requirements, a transfer student should meet with the Honors Director.

## HONORS COURSES IN THE CORE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM CURRICULUM

**The Freshman Honors Seminar.** This learning-community experience is centered in two sequences of four honors courses taught by professors recognized for their excellence in the classroom. A constellation of two English (121H and 122H) and two History (101H and 102H) courses, the Freshman Honors Seminar provides an excellent knowledge foundation through study of some of the most influential books written and the major historical events that have shaped Western civilization. In English, students read and discuss the culture-creating epics of Homer, Virgil, Dante, Milton, and selected modern authors. In History, with the aid of primary sources they learn about the intellectual, political, religious, artistic, social, scientific, and technological changes that have made our world possible. Students in all sections of the Seminar read the same books in chronological order, and at times all the different sections meet together for common lectures and activities. This sharing of course material and academic experience helps to create an actual academic community among honors students. They share their ideas beyond the classroom, whether over coffee or in the dorm, and extend their intellectual friendships from semester to semester.

**Other Freshman and Sophomore Honors Courses.** Students can satisfy some of their basic core curriculum requirements by taking Honors versions of introductory courses in math, biology, physics, economics, interdisciplinary arts, U.S. History, dramatic literature, and modern fiction. Some academic departments also offer lower-division honors courses in majors.

**The Ideas in Conflict Sequence.** This sequence of four chronologically ordered courses familiarizes students with great books written by thinkers whose ideas have sharpened understanding of such central human issues as the nature of justice, claims of truth, the structure of nature, the meaning of political right and obligation, and the forces of modern social, psychological, and cultural development.

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Each of the University's colleges of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Business, Education and Human Development, General Studies, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Science and Technology offers upper-division honors curricula beyond the foundational courses in the University Honors Program. These upper-division curricula (shown in Path One, Path Three, and Path Five in the chart following) allow students to earn an honors diploma in a major or discipline at graduation. After meeting a standard of participation in the UHP to qualify for promotion to an honors curriculum in a major or discipline, students take advanced honors courses designed especially to enhance their preparedness for success in their professions and careers. For information about requirements and honors courses in your major, contact your academic department and see <http://www.selu.edu/Academics/Provost/honorscurricula.htm>

**H-Option** credit can be used in the curricula of many departments to satisfy their honors requirements. H-Option credit for departmental curricula is authorized by the department head.

**The Senior Thesis.** Each senior honors student selects a topic in the major and plans a research project to carry out with the supervision of a faculty advisor. H-Option credit for a senior thesis is approved by the Director of the Honors Program.

## ALTERNATE CORE CURRICULA FOR HONORS STUDENTS (PATHS ONE, TWO AND THREE)

### PATH ONE

For the HONORS DIPLOMA  
IN A DISCIPLINE<sup>1</sup>

#### *Freshman Honors Seminar*

English 121H  
English 122H  
History 101H  
History 102H                      12 hrs

#### *One from the 12 courses below*

English 291H  
English 292H  
History 201H  
History 202H  
Economics 201H  
Math 161H  
Gen Biology 151H  
Gen Biology 153H  
Physics 191H  
Honors Arts 191  
Honors Ideas 311  
Honors Ideas 312  
Honors Ideas 313  
Honors Ideas 314                      3 hrs

Honors courses in the Major  
(including Senior  
Thesis in the Major)                      9-15 hrs

Honors 300 (Thesis)                      1 hr

TOTAL Honors hrs= 25-31 hrs

**Also add:**  
Foreign Language Study=6 hrs<sup>2</sup>

### PATH TWO

For the HONORS DIPLOMA  
IN THE UNIVERSITY  
HONORS PROGRAM

#### *Freshman Honors Seminar*

English 121H  
English 122H  
History 101H  
History 102H                      12 hrs

#### *Four from the 12 courses below*

English 291H  
English 292H  
History 201H  
History 202H  
Economics 201H  
Math 161H  
Gen Biology 151H  
Gen Biology 153H  
Physics 191H  
Honors Arts 191  
Honors Ideas 311  
Honors Ideas 312  
Honors Ideas 313  
Honors Ideas 314                      12 hrs

Senior Thesis  
in the Major                      3 hrs

Honors 300 (Thesis)                      1 hr

TOTAL Honors hrs =28 hrs

**Also add:**  
Foreign Language Study=12 hrs<sup>2</sup>

### PATH THREE

For the HONORS DIPLOMA  
IN THE UNIVERSITY  
HONORS PROGRAM AND  
IN A DISCIPLINE<sup>1</sup>

#### *Freshman Honors Seminar*

English 121H  
English 122H  
History 101H  
History 102H                      12 hrs

#### *Four from the 12 courses below*

English 291H  
English 292H  
History 201H  
History 202H  
Economics 201H  
Math 161H  
Gen Biology 151H  
Gen Biology 153H  
Physics 191H  
Honors Arts 191  
Honors Ideas 311  
Honors Ideas 312  
Honors Ideas 313  
Honors Ideas 314                      12 hrs

Honors courses in the Major  
(including Senior  
Thesis in the Major)                      9-15 hrs

Honors 300 (Thesis)                      1 hr

TOTAL Honors hrs=34-40 hrs

**Also add:**  
Foreign Language Study=12 hrs<sup>2</sup>

**Note 1:** When the separate colleges grant diplomas to students who complete upper-division honors curricula, a college will recognize achievement in a "discipline" or in the college:

<b>Examples:</b>	Honors Diploma in Business	Honors Diploma in Biological Sciences
	Honors Diploma in Technology	Honors Diploma in the Health Sciences
	Honors Diploma in Education	Honors Diploma in Political Science
	Honors Diploma in Social Studies	Honors Diploma in Arts

**Note 2:** Students satisfy this requirement by taking regular (non-Honors) courses in foreign language. In degree programs with no free electives the academic dean has the discretion to substitute a 3-hour H-option course in the major for 3 hours of the foreign language requirement.

## ALTERNATE CORE CURRICULA FOR HONORS STUDENTS (PATHS FOUR AND FIVE)

### PATH FOUR

For the HONORS DIPLOMA IN  
LIBERAL STUDIES

#### *Freshman Honors Seminar*

### PATH FIVE

For the HONORS DIPLOMA IN  
LIBERAL STUDIES  
AND IN A DISCIPLINE<sup>1</sup>

#### *Freshman Honors Seminar*

English 121H		English 121H	
English 122H		English 122H	
History 101H		History 101H	
History 102H	12 hrs	History 102H	12 hrs
<i>All of the courses below</i>		<i>All of the courses below</i>	
English 231, 232, or 291H		English 231, 232, or 291H	
English 231, 232, or 292H		English 231, 232, or 292H	
History 201 or 201H		History 201 or 201H	
History 202 or 202H	12 hrs	History 202 or 202H	12 hrs
Honors Ideas 311		Honors Ideas 311	
Honors Ideas 312		Honors Ideas 312	
Honors Ideas 313		Honors Ideas 313	
Honors Ideas 314	12 hrs	Honors Ideas 314	12 hrs
		Honor courses in Major	9-15 hrs
Senior Thesis in the Major	3 hrs	(including Senior Thesis in the Major)	
Honors 300 (Thesis)	1 hr	Honors 300 (Thesis)	1 hr
TOTAL Honors and non-H hrs =	40 hrs	TOTAL Honors and non-H hrs =	46-52 hrs

**Also Add:**

Foreign Language Study=12 hrs<sup>2</sup>

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Foreign Language Study=12 hrs<sup>2</sup>

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Each honors path requires a **senior thesis** done in the college in which a student majors. If a college does not designate a particular numbered course in which to do the senior thesis project (e.g. in the College of Business and Technology, one course that serves all majors), its students may select an appropriate 300-400 level course in the student's major. A college may stipulate that the thesis be done in a "discipline" rather than a course in a "major."

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**Awards.** The Sophomore Honors Distinction Award will be granted to Honors Program students who, upon conclusion of the semester in which junior status (60 hours) is reached, have completed at least 12 hours of Honors courses (suffix-H and/or HONR) and achieved a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA.

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