UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

The University Honors Program (http://www.gwu.edu/~uhpwww/programinfo.cfm) helps students hone their analytical and expressive powers, deepen their understanding of complex issues and questions, and broaden their perspectives. Built upon an interdisciplinary honors experience, the program is fully integrated into, synergistic with, and reinforcing of the highest academic aspirations of University schools and departments.

- Small seminar-style classes, capped at 15 or 20 students, provide an opportunity to probe a variety of evolving issues and eternal questions.
- The Honors community is strengthened and sustained by a shared academic experience and enhanced by its relatively small size of approximately 500 students. The program offers first- and second-year Honors students the option of living in an Honors residential community.
- Students enroll in a series of unique courses that address both cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary questions and issues, drawing from the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. In their senior year, students participate in an Honors capstone experience that provides an opportunity to apply and reflect on what they have learned as undergraduates.
- The Honors experience is enriched by distinctive co-curricular programming, including off-campus activities with faculty members and discussions in the program's Club Room. Events may include student-faculty dinners, hikes, visits to local museums, day trips throughout the region, theater performances, film screenings, guest speakers and debates, and career information sessions. Students also have an opportunity for summer study abroad.
- The small, discussion-driven format of Honors courses creates a collaborative environment and strengthens relationships between students and faculty.
- Designated Honors academic advisors assist students with academic, career, and personal planning.
- Honors program members have early course registration privileges during their second, third, and fourth semesters.
- Membership in the Honors program is indicated on the student transcript.

REQUIREMENTS

The University Honors Program (http://www.gwu.edu/~uhpwww) offers exceptional entering students the opportunity to engage in a distinctive, participatory program of study designed to prepare them—whatever their gifts and interests might be—to meet the complex challenges of the 21st century. The program invites students to develop a humane perspective on the world. It sustains a community where students and faculty learn from each other, inspired by academic challenge, hard questions, and a desire to make a difference. The program serves approximately 500 selected students, or five percent of the undergraduate student body. Incoming students may apply to the Honors Program at the time they apply to the University; a small group of rising sophomores may also apply.

The program is characterized by small, seminar-style classes with enrollments capped at 15 to 20 students; faculty who serve as mentors, models, and guides in the learning process; classroom approaches that call upon students to initiate inquiry, work collaboratively, and drive the exploration and learning process; interdisciplinary tools and modes of inquiry; and global or cross-cultural perspectives and course content.

In their first year, along with other courses, Honors Program students take:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HONR 1015</td>
<td>Honors Proseminar: UW 1020: Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>HONR 1016</td>
<td>Honors Proseminar: Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>HONR 1033</td>
<td>Honors Proseminar: Scientific Reasoning and Discovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>HONR 1034</td>
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In their second, third, and fourth years they take:

Two Self and Society courses taken as follows: two offerings of HONR 2047 or two offerings of HONR 2048 or one offering each of HONR 2047 and HONR 2048. Topics may not be repeated.

and

Two Arts and Humanities courses taken as follows: two offerings of HONR 2053 or two offerings of HONR 2054 or one offering each of HONR 2053 and HONR 2054. Topics may not be repeated.

In addition, they pursue coursework in their majors, including special or departmental honors and/or independent or mentored research. All Honors Program students participate in HONR 4199 Honors Capstone Experience, and complete a departmental or Honors senior thesis or project. The Honors proseminars meet certain general curriculum and elective requirements of the respective undergraduate schools. HONR 1015 Honors Proseminar: UW 1020: Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought is the required University Writing course for Honors students.

In order to remain in good standing, Honors Program students must enroll in at least 12 credits each semester and, except for the first year, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher. First-year students must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Successful participation in the program is recognized and recorded on a student's official transcript.
Courses

HONR 1015. Honors Proseminar: UW 1020: Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought. 4 Credits.
Exploration of significant exemplars, milestones, and developments of human thought; foundational and representative thinkers and texts from Western and Eastern traditions provide an indication of the diversity and complexity of attempts to articulate responses to universal questions, problems, and aspirations.

HONR 1016. Honors Proseminar: Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought. 3 Credits.
Continuation of HONR 1015. Key developments and trajectories in human thought and inquiry into modern times.

HONR 1033. Honors Proseminar: Scientific Reasoning and Discovery. 4 Credits.
Using an inquiry-based approach, students learn to identify hidden regularities and patterns in nature that may indicate fundamental unifying principles and laws. The scientific method; evaluation of scientific information; limitations of the scientific process; development of a scientific hypothesis. Tools and methodologies of geology, chemistry, physics, biology, anthropology, and other disciplines.

HONR 1034. Honors Proseminar: Scientific Reasoning and Discovery. 4 Credits.
Continuation of HONR 1033. Using an inquiry-based approach, students learn to identify hidden regularities and patterns in nature that may indicate fundamental unifying principles and laws. The scientific method; evaluation of scientific information; limitations of the scientific process; development of a scientific hypothesis. Tools and methodologies of geology, chemistry, physics, biology, anthropology, and other disciplines.

HONR 2047. Honors Proseminar: Social and Behavioral Sciences. 3 Credits.
Using the tools and modes of inquiry of the social and behavioral sciences, students find ways to understand significant social and political phenomena. Relationships among individuals, collectivities, families, and communities; interactions of psychological, social, political, economic, and historical forces at work in a given culture.

HONR 2048. Honors Proseminar: Social and Behavioral Sciences. 3 Credits.
Continuation of HONR 2047. Using the tools and modes of inquiry of the social and behavioral sciences, students find ways to understand significant social and political phenomena. Relationships among individuals, collectivities, families, and communities; interactions of psychological, social, political, economic, and historical forces at work in a given culture.

HONR 2053. Honors Proseminar: Arts and Humanities. 3 Credits.
Using an array of artistic forms (poetry, prose literature, drama, film, painting, sculpture, architecture, dance, and music), students explore the ways cultures are defined and understood through artistic expression, and the ways in which particular cultures value and critique these forms of personal and social expression.

HONR 2054. Honors Proseminar: Arts and Humanities. 3 Credits.
Continuation of HONR 2053. Using an array of artistic forms (poetry, prose literature, drama, film, painting, sculpture, architecture, dance, and music), students explore the ways cultures are defined and understood through artistic expression, and the ways in which particular cultures value and critique these forms of personal and social expression.

HONR 2175W. Honors Special Topics. 0-6 Credits.

HONR 2182. Honors Internship. 0-4 Credits.
The Honors Program allows credit to Honors students for academic work that puts an internship in a broader scholastic context. Each student must have a GW faculty member oversee his or her project. The Honors internship faculty member determines the student’s grade.

HONR 2184. Honors Undergraduate Research. 0-4 Credits.
Independent or faculty-mentored research resulting in a significant written or other product.

HONR 2185. Honors Research Assistantship. 0-4 Credits.
Students provide substantive assistance to a faculty member engaged in scholarly or scientific research.

HONR 4198. Honors Senior Thesis. 3-4 Credits.
One- or two-semester thesis under faculty guidance. May be repeated for credit.
HONR 4199. Honors Capstone Experience. 1 Credit.
Students re-engage with core questions and issues related to the Honors Program curriculum, reflecting on their learning in relation to enduring questions and challenges of our world.