

# Honors Program

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## Undergraduate Program

### Overview

Utah State University's Honors Program, established in 1966, provides an enhanced academic environment for highly motivated undergraduates. The Honors Program includes a community of scholars whose curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm for learning foster educational achievement and personal growth.

Honors offers students intensive seminars, experimental classes, interdisciplinary courses, writing projects, leadership opportunities, and special activities. Members may define independent study programs and design special research projects. Honors students work in close contact with professors in smaller classes; they pursue studies in greater depth than regular classes would allow. Members also enjoy the company of other committed students who encourage and support one another's intellectual growth and productivity. Honors students participate actively in their own education.

Honors serves students who work hard, raise questions, and seek answers. It is designed for students who want to go beyond minimum requirements and narrow specialties. The program benefits those who want to make the most of their university experience.

The Honors program maintains strict standards for both entering and completing its program. However, there are no extra fees to pay, and there are honors options suitable for both entering freshmen and transfer students. The most important criterion for success is a student's motivation and dedication to learning.

### Entrance to the Honors Program

A limited number of entering freshmen are invited to join the Honors Program each year. These are students who have been awarded University Club Scholarships, Quinney Scholarships, and Presidential Academic Scholarships.

Other students who are interested in the Honors Program should contact the Honors Office for information about gaining admission.

Students admitted to the program will be eligible to register for Honors classes. Those who plan to complete Honors degrees should plan to take at least one honors course every semester in order to fulfill the degree requirements.

### Participation in Honors

To be eligible for entrance into Honors, a student must have a GPA of 3.5. To remain eligible, the student must not allow his/her

GPA to drop below 3.5. The Honors Office places students with a GPA of less than 3.5 on probation. If the GPA is not raised to 3.5 after one semester on probation, the student is dropped from the program. Reinstatement can be requested if the GPA is raised to 3.5. Honors students must also register for one honors class per semester in order to remain in the program.

### Honors Degrees

Utah State University offers Honors Degrees designed to fill a variety of student needs. Members may work toward one of three degree options:

**1. University Honors.** Requires 30 semester credits including at least 12 credits from the *Honors Course List* and as many as 15 credits, including Honors senior thesis/project credits, in an upper-division plan of study that has been approved by the Honors Director. University Honors requires a USU cumulative GPA of at least 3.50.

**2. University Honors with Department Honors.** Requires 30 semester credits including as many as 15 credits from the *Honors Course List* and at least 15 credits, including Honors senior thesis/project credits, in an approved Department Honors Plan. University Honors requires a USU cumulative GPA of at least 3.50.

**3. Department Honors.** Requires 15 semester credits as specified in a Department Honors plan, including a senior thesis/project.

### Listing of Honors Courses

Class offerings change frequently. For the most complete list, see the *Honors Course List* available in the Honors Program office, Merrill Library 374.

## Honors Courses (Honr)

**Honr 1300H (BAI). U.S. Institutions.** Provides basic understanding of history, principles, form of government, and economic system of the United States. Open only to students enrolled in USU Honors Program. (3 cr) (F,Sp)

**Honr 1320H (BHU). Civilization: Humanities.** Provides basic understanding of broad range of themes cutting across human history and continuing to be important in contemporary society. Covers both Western and non-Western civilization. Open only to students enrolled in USU Honors Program. (3 cr) (F,Sp)

**Honr 1330H (BCA). Civilization: Creative Arts.** Explores questions such as: "What is art, and how do you judge it?" and "How does artistic expression vary across cultures?" Covers several forms of art. Students attend concerts, visit galleries, and attend theatrical performances. Open only to students enrolled in USU Honors Program. (3 cr) (F,Sp)

**Honr 1340H (BSS). Social Systems and Issues.** Considers how a society of self-interested individuals can live together in peace and harmony. Topic explored from perspectives of different disciplines. Open only to students enrolled in USU Honors Program. (3 cr) (F,Sp)

**Honr 1350H (BLS). Integrated Life Science.** Interdisciplinary course focusing on basic concepts of life science. Demonstrates role of modeling, prediction, and observation in the process of scientific discovery, which occurs within an historical and social context. (3 cr) (F,Sp,Su)

**Honr 1360H (BPS). Integrated Physical Science.** Interdisciplinary course focusing on basic concepts of physical science, including structure of matter and magnitude and character of the forces of nature. Demonstrates role of modeling, prediction, and observation in the process of scientific discovery, which occurs within an historical and social context. (3 cr)

**Honr 2000H. Honors Seminar.** Includes orientation to the Honors Program and topics of interest to faculty and students. (1 cr) (F,Sp) ®

**Honr 3010H (DSC). Special Topics: Life and Physical Sciences.** Focuses on basic scientific concepts and methods of inquiry used by scientists. Considers science from a broad perspective, showing how various disciplines are related. Open only to students enrolled in USU Honors Program. (3 cr) (F,Sp) ®

**Honr 3020H (DHA). Special Topics: Humanities/Creative Arts.** Humanities section provides basic understanding of a broad range of themes cutting across human history and continuing to be important in contemporary society. Covers both Western and non-Western civilization. In the Creative Arts section, students explore questions such as: "What is art, and how do you judge it?" and "How does artistic expression vary across cultures?" Covers several forms of art. Students attend concerts, visit galleries, and attend theatrical performances. Open only to students enrolled in USU Honors Program. (3 cr) (F,Sp) ®

**Honr 3030H (DSS). Special Topics: Social Sciences.** Considers how a society of self-interested individuals can live together in peace and harmony. Topic explored from perspectives of different disciplines. Open only to students enrolled in USU Honors Program. (3 cr) (F,Sp) ®

**Honr 3900H. Independent Study.** Independent research, library and/or laboratory work, or creative effort working in a one-to-one relationship with a faculty member. Limited to students actively pursuing an Honors degree. (1-5 cr) (F,Sp,Su) ®

**Honr 4000H. Reading Seminar.** Opportunity to read, discuss, and write about classic books. (1 cr) (F,Sp) ®

**Honr 4700H. Honors Fellows.** Junior or senior Honors students assist in leading Honors seminars and tutorials. (1-3 cr) (F,Sp) ®

**Honr 4800H. Thesis/Project Seminar.** Oral presentation and discussion of senior theses/projects. Guest presentations focus on essential contrasts and similarities in "ways of knowing" among various academic specialties. (1 cr) (Sp)

**Honr 4900H. Senior Thesis/Project.** All Honors students are required to submit a senior thesis/project for graduation with an Honors degree. Thesis/project may be in any area of student's choice, prepared in cooperation with an advisor drawn from the faculty at large. (1-5 cr) (F,Sp,Su) ®

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® Repeatable for credit. Check with major department for limitations on number of credits that can be counted for graduation.