

Honors Program

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Undergraduate Program

Overview

Utah State University's Honors Program, established in 1964, 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. Participants 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. Participants 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

Students generally enter Honors at one of two points during their academic career. The majority will enter through "Scholars Forum." Students with strong academic qualifications, who plan to enroll at Utah State as freshmen, are automatically enrolled in Scholars Forum, a 1-credit online orientation class (HONR 2000H), as well as an appropriate Honors University Studies class. The Scholars Forum gives high-ability students the opportunity to explore various options to maximize the value of their undergraduate education. Many will elect to continue along the "Honors Pathway" until graduation, through a formal application process conducted during October.

Other students may join Honors after they have completed all or nearly all of their General Education requirements. These students will initially enroll in HONR 2100H (Honors Inquiry Seminar), which will prepare them to pursue an Honors degree in their major (i.e., "Departmental Honors").

Participation in Honors

To be eligible for entrance into Honors, a student must have a GPA of 3.50. For most majors, to maintain eligibility and to graduate in Honors, a student must not allow her or his GPA to drop below 3.30. The Honors Office places students with a GPA of less than 3.30 on probation. A student with a GPA of less than 2.50 will be dropped from the program. Reinstatement can be requested if the GPA is raised to 3.30. Honors students must also register for one Honors class per semester in order to remain active in the program.

Honors Degrees

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

1. **Departmental Honors.** Requires 15 semester credits as specified in a Departmental Honors plan, including a senior thesis/project.
2. **Departmental Honors with Honors in University Studies.** Requires 27 semester credits including 12 credits from the *Honors Course List* and at least 15 credits, including Honors senior thesis/project credits, in an approved Departmental Honors Plan.
3. **University Honors.** Requires 27 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.

Listing of Honors Courses

Class offerings change frequently. For the most complete list, see the *Honors Course List* available on the Honors Program website:
<http://www.usu.edu/honors/>

Course Descriptions

Honors (HONR), pages 645-646.