



# How to Create an Extraordinary Honors Application

*for current USU / transfer students*

## 1. Extracurricular Resume

- Curiosity and Passion: Your school, work, and community activities can show us both that you are curious about a range of topics and passionate about some of them. If you can take on responsibility or leadership roles in areas that matter to you, try to do so and to show us who you are in your resume.
- Community Engagement: Your resume can showcase the connection between your academic work in college and your commitment to change the world. Honors students want to bring their knowledge beyond the classroom. Use your resume to show us what you have already done to make your community better.
- Format: Follow the format on the sample resume, selecting and showcasing the activities and accomplishments that mean most to you. Make sure to include the total hours spent on each activity; they will help us to award incoming Honors points upon admission.

## 2. Transcript

- Courses: Challenge yourself in college, and explain your challenges, course choices, and performance so we can understand what your transcript means to you.
- GPA/Recommendation: Do your best, put your transcript in context with an explanation, and get to know your professors. Your willingness to take risks, seek challenges, and develop connections with faculty are key to admission and future success in Honors.

## 3. Essays

- Questions: *The USU Honors Program's motto, from the poet Horace, is "Sapere aude" or "Dare to Know." Write two essays (250-300 words each) that demonstrate your **Curiosity and Creativity and Courage and Connection** (see our website at [honors.usu.edu](http://honors.usu.edu) for essay prompts). Briefly, the first essay will describe a moment in college when you became so passionately curious about a class idea, assignment, or activity that you decided to share it with people outside class, and the second will explain what you will bring to our Honors Aggie community by focusing on one of our Honors Think Tanks or Book Labs.*
- Examples: Choose your example from college carefully, and be very specific about how and why it demonstrates your curiosity and creativity. Similarly, use your choice of an Honors Think Tank course or Book Lab to show us both courage and a desire to connect with our diverse, cross-disciplinary community.
- Plan: Imagine yourself in the USU Honors Program. Take some time to consider how your curiosity will grow in Honors and how your interest in Honors will develop as you become part of our community. Try to describe the future in real, specific terms.
- Impact: The best essays do more than just discuss what Honors can do for you; they describe what you will bring to Honors. Show us why you want to be here, and why we should want that, too.

