

HONORS PROGRAM

www.unh.edu/honors-program (<http://www.unh.edu/honors-program>)

The University Honors Program (UHP), established by the Academic Senate in 1983, recognizes the achievements and capabilities of outstanding students. The program enriches undergraduate education by offering a personal, intensive approach to learning through small classes of 25 or fewer students and individualized collaborations with faculty.

There are various categories of Honors recognition awarded at graduation. University Honors students complete a four-year curriculum, as described below. Honors in Major graduates complete a two-year curriculum of enriched work in their departments, excluding the Discovery component of the Honors Program. No award is given for completion of Discovery Honors courses alone; either Honors in Major or Interdisciplinary Honors work is required to graduate with University Honors.

Admissions

The Office of Admissions identifies a number of qualified incoming freshmen to be admitted to the honors program. In addition, Freshmen whose grades are in the top 10% of their college classes are invited to join the program in January. Students may also petition to join the program if they have a GPA of at least 3.5. Admission to Honors in Major is determined by each department, but in most cases does not require an invitation or application.

Required courses and experiences

1. Discovery Honors courses (16 credits)
 - a. One course must be an Honors Inquiry Seminar, with the course number 444.
 - b. [For students entering in or after Fall 2016 only] One course must be an Honors Symposium, with the course number 440.
 - c. At most one course may be a "designated Honors course," in which students create their own Honors course in collaboration with a faculty member.
2. Honors in Major OR Interdisciplinary Honors
 - a. Honors in Major requirements differ by major and can be found at <http://www.unh.edu/honors-program/honors-major>.
 - b. Interdisciplinary Honors requires three approved high-impact experiences. See [honors-program/interdisciplinary-honors](http://www.unh.edu/honors-program/interdisciplinary-honors) (<http://www.unh.edu/honors-program/interdisciplinary-honors>).
3. Honors Thesis of at least 4 credits
 - a. Students must register for an Honors Thesis course of at least 4 credits supervised by a faculty member.
 - b. A grade of B- or better is required for the Honors Thesis.

Registering for Honors Discovery Courses

Honors courses require permission, which is obtained through "preregistration" with the Honors office. Members of the University Honors Program will receive preregistration instructions via email each semester. Honors courses can be found at <http://courses.unh.edu> by selecting the attribute "Honors Courses." Enrollment in these courses is restricted to members of the University Honors Program. Honors courses are open with special permission to non-honors students with a 3.5 or higher GPA on a space-available basis.

Honors in Major

Currently, there are more than 50 different departments from all five of the University's undergraduate schools and colleges offering departmental honors programs. Academic work for Honors in Major usually requires a minimum of 16 credits, at least four of which will be devoted to a senior thesis project. Students should familiarize themselves with their department's requirements and should meet with their departmental honors liaison <https://www.unh.edu/honors-program/requirements-contacts>.

Interdisciplinary Honors

Students entering in the Fall of 2016 have a second option for completing University Honors. In lieu of completing Honors in Major, they may complete three approved high-impact experiences as well as a thesis. Interdisciplinary Honors recognizes students who seek academic experiences that extend beyond their course curricula. At least one experience must be interdisciplinary. An interdisciplinary experience is defined as one that requires the use of two or more disciplines in order to produce a specifically interdisciplinary product or understanding. In other words, the interdisciplinary experience allows for new ideas, questions, products, or solutions that would be unlikely to emerge within a single discipline. Examples of such experiences can be found on the UHP website.

Approved high-impact experiences that count toward Interdisciplinary Honors include:

- Study abroad in a UNH managed, exchange, or approved program of at least 8 weeks
- Completing the application process for a major national fellowship
- An IROP, SURF, or other approved research experience
- Named co-authorship on a publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- A presentation at a regional or national academic conference
- An IMPACT project (interdisciplinary, faculty-led efforts to solve community problems)
- A Social Innovation Summer Internship
- Study away at the Washington Center or Semester in the City
- Other approved high-impact experience (by petition)

Students should consult with Honors Program advisers before the beginning of Junior year to decide which track they will pursue.

GPA minimum

Honors Program members entering before the Fall of 2017 must maintain a GPA of 3.0 in the Freshman year and 3.4 thereafter. Members entering in or after the Fall of 2017 must maintain a GPA of 3.2 in the Freshman year and 3.5 thereafter. Students who do not reach the required GPA by the end of the academic year will be notified and offered an opportunity to petition to remain in the program. Students must meet the required GPA in order to graduate with University Honors.

For more information, contact the University Honors Program at honors.program@unh.edu or (603) 862-3928, or visit the UHP website at www.unh.edu/honors-program (<http://www.unh.edu/honors-program>).