Honors College

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Honors College

The Honors College is a community of motivated and high-achieving students from all the undergraduate colleges at the University of Missouri. It offers an innovative and dynamic curriculum that encourages in-depth study in traditional fields of learning as well as other kinds of intellectual inquiry, including interdisciplinarity and experiential learning. The College fosters scholarly engagement through research opportunities, study abroad, service learning, internships, and other experiences that expand learning beyond the classroom. Students receive personalized advising through a team of professionally trained advisors.

The Honors College gives honors students maximum flexibility to serve their individual interests. Honors courses, taught by many of the university’s best professors, encourage close interaction between students and faculty and allow students to experience a small-college atmosphere within a large, research university.

Opportunities in the Honors College are described below.

Honors Curriculum

Honors courses fall into 3 categories:

1. Courses offered through individual departments. These include special topics courses and honors sections of regularly offered courses.

2. Courses offered through the Honors College.

3. Research and other independent-study types of courses, offered both through departments and the Honors College.

Honors courses offered through the Honors College include the following:

• Humanities Series. This series of four, historically-organized courses provides an interdisciplinary perspective on art, art history, literature, music, philosophy, and religion.

• Human Sciences Series. This series of four, thematically-based courses provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the behavioral and social sciences, including cultural geography, economics, family studies, history, psychology, and sociology.

• Science series. This series of two, thematically-based courses provides an interdisciplinary, hands-on laboratory approach to science for non-science majors. It is designed to introduce students to the methods, range, and big ideas of science.

• Honors Discussion Groups and Seminars. These are small and informal courses typically focused on a special topic.

• Career Explorations Courses. These lower-level courses are designed to introduce students to different career choices in fields like Journalism, Medicine and Health, and Law.

• Honors Tutorials. These upper-level courses are informal discussion groups of 2-5 students and a faculty member. Tutorials focus on special topics that change from semester to semester, depending on which faculty members are offering them. They are based on the Oxford-style of learning, with heavy emphasis on conversation and in-depth investigation.

• Honors Independent Study Courses. These courses provide honors students with an opportunity to study topics (typically of the student’s choosing) with a faculty member.

• Honors Colloquia. These courses focus on interdisciplinary topics and typically adopt a more flexible and experimental approach to teaching.

• Honors Preceptorships. These courses provide honors students with an opportunity to conduct specialized research with a faculty member.

• Honors by Contract. This arrangement allows honors students to take a non-honors course for honors credit by completing additional or alternative work. To do an Honors by Contract, students must enter into a contractual agreement with a professor, approved by the director and associate directors of the Honors College. Contractual forms are available online.

• Honors Credit Via Graduate Course Work

More information on honors courses can be found on the website (honors.missouri.edu).

Special Programs and Services

Advising. The Honors College offers one-on-one academic advising for all honors students. Through its Medopp office, it also offers specialized advising for students planning a career in medicine, dentistry, optometry, podiatry or physician assistant. MedOpp advising provides students with a comprehensive program that includes a variety of services to guide students through the academic and application process necessary to become a health professional.

Honors Housing. The Honors Learning Community fosters a living and learning space that fosters intellectual and social stimulation and encourages residents to succeed academically and socially during their time at the University of Missouri.

Service Learning. The Honors MU Community Engagement Project is a service-learning outreach program designed to assist members of the community and offer honors students problem-solving and leadership experiences. Service projects include mentoring at-risk adolescents, working with low-income pre-school children, and investigating and providing service for local public health agencies. Students perform community service, participate in a seminar, and complete research projects.

Honors College Admissions

Incoming Freshmen

Incoming freshmen may apply for automatic admission to the Honors College upon submission of an application, if they satisfy any one of the following three criteria:

• An ACT score of 31 (SAT 1360) AND either a top 15% class rank OR a high school Core or Enhanced Core GPA of 3.58

• An ACT score of 30 (SAT 1330) AND either a top 10% class rank OR a high school Core or Enhanced Core GPA of 3.74

• An ACT score of 29 (SAT 1290) AND either a top 5% class rank OR a high school Core or Enhanced Core GPA of 3.91

Incoming freshmen who do not meet both of the admission criteria are required to submit an essay as part of their application. Essays are evaluated on an individual basis. Specific information
on the requirements for the essay can be found on the website (honors.missouri.edu).

Transfer Students

Transfer Students are eligible for admission to the Honors College if they have completed at least 30 credit hours of college credit at an accredited institution and have achieved a GPA of 3.7 or above. If you meet these criteria, please fill out the online application (http://honors.missouri.edu/future_students/application.php). The cumulative GPA, for the purpose of applying to the Honors College, is the calculated average of transfer work from all institutions the student has attended.

Current MU Students

Current students are eligible for admission to the Honors College if they are an MU student who has completed at least 12 credit hours and achieved a cumulative MU GPA of 3.7 or higher. Students who meet these criteria must fill out the online application (http://honors.missouri.edu/future_students/application.php).

Program Requirements

Maintaining Honors Eligibility

GPA Requirement

To retain membership in the Honors College, students must maintain an MU cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above. Students with an MU cumulative GPA below 3.5 will receive a warning letter the first semester in which this occurs. Students with an MU cumulative GPA below 3.5 for a second consecutive semester will no longer be members of the Honors College. Students wishing to reapply to the Honors College must meet the eligibility requirements for current MU students (see above).

Participation Requirement

Students who join the Honors College as first-year students will be required to complete two honors courses per year for their first two years at MU. All honors courses will count toward this requirement, including honors-designated courses, and Honors Learning-by-Contract. MU students who join the Honors College in their sophomore year and transfer students who are admitted with sophomore standing will be required to complete two courses in their first year of Honors College membership. MU students who join the Honors College after their second year and transfer students who are admitted with junior or senior standing are exempt from the participation requirement.

Honors Certificate Requirements

Students who complete 20 or more hours of courses for honors credit and maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA (as calculated after final grades are posted at the end of the semester in which the student is graduating) are eligible to graduate with an Honors Certificate. In addition to General Honors and Departmental Honors course credits, the 20 hours may include up to 6 hours of honors transfer credit, 8 hours of Learning-by-Contract credit, and 8 hours of approved graduate credit (form required) (http://honors.missouri.edu/students/graduate_credit_form.pdf). Students must achieve a minimum letter grade for each course: a C or better for regular honors classes or a B or better for Learning-by-Contract courses and Honors Credit via Graduate Course Work. Students must apply for the Honors Certificate by completing the application (http://honors.missouri.edu/students/certificate_application.php). In order to participate in the Honors Convocation, students must apply no later than the end of the third week of classes in their final semester. For more information, see the Application for Graduation with the Honors Certificate (http://honors.missouri.edu/students/certificate_application.php).

University Honors Designation

Students who complete the Honors Certificate and a qualified departmental honors program will be eligible for this designation, which will be noted on their permanent transcript. See your department or the Honors College for information about departmental honor programs.

Faculty

There are faculty from all disciplines who teach Honors College courses.