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. The Honors College 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 interdisciplinary and experiential learning. The College fosters scholarly engagement through research opportunities, study abroad, 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 offered through the Honors College are listed in the University Catalog. The Honors College also offers the following alternative ways by which to earn Honors Credit:

- Honors Learning-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 Learning-by-Contract, students must enter into a contractual agreement with a professor and gain approval from the director of the Honors College.

- Honors Credit via Graduate Course Work. Honors students may earn credit toward the Honors Certificate by taking graduate-level classes.

- Honors Credit via Study Abroad. Up to six hours of study abroad credit completed while a student at MU can be considered as honors credit.

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

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

Honors course information and course application forms can be found on the Honors College website. (https://honors.missouri.edu/current-students/courses)

Special Programs and Services

Advising

The Honors College offers one-on-one academic advising for all honors students.

Honors Housing

The Honors Learning Community fosters a living and learning space that enriches intellectual and social stimulation and encourages residents to succeed academically and socially during their time at the University of Missouri. Honors Freshman Interest Groups (FIGs) are available in a number of interest areas.

Honors College Admissions

Interested students are encouraged to visit our website (https://honors.missouri.edu/admission) for more information on how to apply and on the profile of a “typical” successful Honors applicant, as well as the required materials for admission—including official transcripts, official score report, essays, and more. The Honors College does not accept applications from conditionally admitted students. A student must be fully admitted to MU, by our required deadlines, before Honors will consider their application.

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 with a cumulative Mizzou GPA below 3.0 will be removed immediately.

Participation Requirement

Students are 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.

Honors Certificate Requirements

Students who complete 24 or more hours 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 24 hours may include up to 6 hours of honors transfer credit, 6 hours of approved study abroad credit (form required), 8 hours of Learning-by-Contract credit, and 8 hours of approved graduate credit (form required). 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 (https://honors.missouri.edu/graduating-with-honors/honors-certificate-application). 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.

University Honors Designation

Students who complete the Honors Certificate and a qualified departmental honors program (https://honors.missouri.edu/graduating-with-honors) will be eligible for this designation, which will be noted on their permanent transcript. See your departmental advisor for information about departmental honors programs.
Faculty

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

**GN_HON 1010H: Career Explorations**
Colloquia in which experts from both the University and the Columbia communities discuss their specialties and answer students' questions on the nature and current status of their disciplines. Open primarily to freshmen. Graded on an A-F basis only.

**Credit Hour: 1**  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 1030H: Honors Discussion Groups**
Informal discussion between students and faculty on various academic topics. Graded S/U only.

**Credit Hour: 1-2**  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 1050H: Honors Seminar**
Freshman-sophomore seminar offering a small group opportunity to write about and discuss basic works chosen by instructor.

**Credit Hour: 1-3**  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 1070H: Honors Elective Colloquium**
Credit Hour: 2-3  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 1080H: Honors Internship**
Independent study under the supervision of a regular faculty member.

**Credit Hour: 1-3**  
**Prerequisites:** written proposal with professor's approval submitted in advance to Director of the Honors College. Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 2010H: Honors Tutorial**
Small group of students (2-5) engage in collaborative work under faculty guidance. The focus is determined in advance by a faculty member and shaped through discussion with the enrolled students. Course may be repeated for credit. Honors eligibility required

**Credit Hour: 1-3**  
**Prerequisites:** instructor's consent

**GN_HON 2011H: Unbound: Reading Without Limits**
Joining forces with the Unbound Book Festival, held late April each year here in Columbia, the Unbound tutorial seeks to engage students in the life-long learning approach to reading for pleasure, for the pursuit of engagement, and as a social construct (rather than simply an isolated act). Students will read no fewer than four works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and essays, and discuss them as a reading circle but also have the opportunity to meet the authors during the Unbound Book Festival and discuss with them their ideas and skills. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hour: 1**  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 2012H: BBQ: Culture, Cuts, and Consumption - Honors**
This course will focus on providing you with a sound understanding of the culture, context, culinary, and commercial aspects of Barbecue. We will explore how the meat industry plays a role in BBQ, the environmental implications (of both meat and wood usage), the culture (from your backyard to the national competitions, and even BBQ abroad), and look into how and why BBQ has become such a phenomenon. We will spend some time with a local (KC) author who has written a novel on BBQ that is currently being turned into a TV series. And then we will spend time visiting local BBQ "joints", speaking with owners and pitmasters, customers and devotees, about their business models, their culinary decisions, and their traditions - yes, we will taste, but we will also learn, and use what we have learned, to understand the world of BBQ and its intersections in our daily and national lives. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hour: 1**  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 2015H: Theory and Practice of Tutoring Writing Seminar**
(same as ENGLSH 2015H). Addresses both the theory and practice of tutoring and the foundations of good writing. This course also qualifies students for a part-time job working as Writing Lab/Online Writery tutors in future semesters.

**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Prerequisites:** ENGLSH 1000; instructor's consent

**GN_HON 2015HW: Theory and Practice of Tutoring Writing Seminar - Honors/Writing Intensive**
(same as ENGLSH 2015H). Addresses both the theory and practice of tutoring and the foundations of good writing. This course also qualifies students for a part-time job working as Writing Lab/Online Writery tutors in future semesters.

**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Prerequisites:** ENGLSH 1000; instructor's consent

**GN_HON 2085H: Honors Problems**
Independent study under the supervision of a regular faculty member.

**Credit Hour: 1-3**  
**Prerequisites:** written proposal with professor's approval submitted in advance to Director of the Honors College. Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 2111H: The Ancient World**
The reading list is comprised of the great writers of classical Greece and Rome such as Homer, Sophocles, Plato, Aristotle, Virgil and Apuleius, and of the biblical period, the authors of the Book of Job and the Gospel of Mark.

**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**GN_HON 2111HW: The Ancient World - Honors/Writing Intensive**
The reading list is comprised of the great writers of classical Greece and Rome such as Homer, Sophocles, Plato, Aristotle, Virgil and Apuleius, and of the biblical period, the authors of the Book of Job and the Gospel of Mark.

**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required
GN_HON 2112H: The Middle Ages and the Renaissance
The literature, art and philosophy which reflect the interaction of biblical thought with the classical past, and ultimately an emerging humanism, form the contents of the second semester. Readings include selections from such central figures as Aquinas, Chaucer, Dante, and Shakespeare. Special lectures are presented on the art, architecture and music of these eras.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2112HW: Here Be Monsters - Honors/Writing Intensive
Exploring the art, literature, music and philosophy of the Medieval and Renaissance periods, this course opens in North Africa during the late Roman Empire on the threshold between the classical and medieval eras, and it closes in Shakespeare's London during the English Renaissance. In between, we'll explore the fens of Beowulf's Denmark, the battlefields of Roland and Charlemagne, and Hell itself in Dante's Inferno; meet werewolves and dragons and pilgrims; navigate the intellectual, political, and religious turmoil of medieval Europe; and encounter the glory of Renaissance Italy. This is the second course in the long-running Honors Humanities Sequence.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2113H: The Early Modern World: The 17th-19th Centuries
Enlightenment
The third segment of the Sequence treats the cultural developments in the West from the Baroque to the Enlightenment through Romanticism. The works of Cervantes, Descartes, Milton, Voltaire, Kant, Austen, Goethe, and Dickinson are among those studied. The music and visual arts of these periods are also included.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2114H: The Modern Era
The final semester of the Humanities Sequence deals with the intellectual and cultural developments from the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth century. Lectures and discussions will be held on the philosophy of Marx, Nietzsche, Sartre and Hannah Arendt; on the literary works of Dickens, Dostoevsky, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, and Toni Morrison. Special lectures are presented on the music of the period.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2114HW: The Modern Era - Honors/Writing Intensive
The final semester of the Humanities Sequence deals with the intellectual and cultural developments from the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth century. Lectures and discussions will be held on the philosophy of Marx, Nietzsche, Sartre and Hannah Arendt; on the literary works of Dickens, Dostoevsky, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, and Toni Morrison. Special lectures are presented on the music of the period.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2120H: Honors Humanities Colloquium

Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2230H: Honors Social Science Colloquium

Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2230HW: Honors Social Science Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive

Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2231H: Genocide in the Modern World: An Introduction
This course examines the multitude of genocide's facets - its causes, course of events, consequences, and the pursuit of prevention and punishment - since the advent of the Twentieth Century (with some examination of historical antecedents). Specific historical and conceptual aspects of various case studies will be examined and a framework for the study of genocide will be developed and applied, starting with the legal definition of genocide and ending with very nuanced theories, behaviors, and components of specific events. The class will use foundational case studies to understand the place of genocide throughout history and end with an investigation into current and on-going genocides, as well as the international pursuit of justice in the wake of these events. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2243H: Human Sciences Sequence I: Personal Identity
This interdisciplinary course approached the perennial but fascinating question of how we define, develop, and present ourselves. It considers this question from a range of disciplinary, regional, and thematic perspectives.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2244H: Social Relations
This interdisciplinary course explores the construction of human identity as it related to social groups (these groups might include anything from the family to fan clubs, sports teams to college students).

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2245H: Social Organization
This course examines various forms of social organization from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course will examine small organizations (such as families and kin networks) that are grounded in face-to-face relationships and then consider the impact of large-scale organizations (such as markets and states). The class will also explore how these larger organizations can hold together in the absence of direct personal connections between members.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required
GN_HON 2246H: Global Citizenship
This course continues our introduction to the fundamental problems and concepts of social science by concentrating on today's emerging global society and the ways in which it shapes social identity. The course also aims at encouraging students to think of themselves as global citizens - people who possess a sense of their own role as citizens of the world.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2246HW: Global Citizenship - Honors/Writing Intensive
This course continues our introduction to the fundamental problems and concepts of social science by concentrating on today's emerging global society and the ways in which it shapes social identity. The course also aims at encouraging students to think of themselves as global citizens - people who possess a sense of their own role as citizens of the world.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2310H: Honors Behavioral Science Colloquium
Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2450H: Honors Biological, Physical, Math (Computer Science) Science Colloquium
Open to all honors-eligible students. These courses may be cross-listed with Biological, Physical or Mathematical Science Departments. Interdisciplinary or experimental courses are encouraged.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2452H: Honors Biological Science Colloquium
Open to all honors-eligible students. These courses may be cross-listed with Biological Science Departments. Interdisciplinary or experimental courses are encouraged.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2456H: Honors Math (Computer Science) Science Colloquium
Open to all honors-eligible students. These courses may be cross-listed with Mathematical Science Departments. Interdisciplinary or experimental courses are encouraged.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2457H: Honors Physical Science Colloquium
Open to all honors-eligible students. These courses may be cross-listed with Physical Science Departments. Interdisciplinary or experimental courses are encouraged.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2461H: Environment: From Molecules to the Cosmos
Inquiry-based exploration of how the world was made, environments formed, life evolved, and how it works together to sustain life on Earth. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2462H: Energy: From Particles to Civilizations
Inquiry based exploration of energy, what it is, how it is used, and how it sustains our life on Earth. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2950H: Honors Preceptorship
Active participation in a professor's research for up to six hours a week.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: written description of the work with professor's approval submitted in advance to Director of the Honors College. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3070H: Honors Electives Colloquium
Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3070HW: Honors Electives Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive
Honors Electives Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive.

Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3112H: Interdisciplinary Topics in the Humanities: Aesthetics and Performance
Aesthetics and Performance is the 2nd course offered in a four-semester, upper-level Humanities Series. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to a variety of topics relevant to such disciplines as Art History, Art, Theater, English, and Film Studies. Students will be introduced to key figures, ideas, and texts in aesthetics and performance. The course format will be a combination of guest lectures, small-group discussion, and when possible, team-teaching. May be repeated for credit.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior or senior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3113H: Interdisciplinary Topics in the Humanities: Big Ideas, Big Questions
Big Ideas, Big Questions is the third course offered in a four-semester, upper-level Humanities Series. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to concepts, theories, debates, and questions central to our understanding of the humanities.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: upper-level standing or permission of instructor; Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3120H: Honors Humanities Colloquium
Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required
We will investigate the topic of human nature, asking such questions as: What are we like? Why do we behave the way we do? Are we inherently selfish or social? Do we have a unitary "self" or are we made up of many (and sometimes contradictory) selves? Is there a single "human" nature or are there distinct "male" and "female" natures? Does human nature vary across cultures? Insights come from fields ranging from genetics to literature. The concept of "human nature" is fiercely contested and debated both within and between academic disciplines. We will be focusing on the scientific study of human nature, seeking naturalistic explanations by formulating and testing hypotheses. In each class, we will discuss one specific topic like sex or violence and seek to make sense of it from both the proximate level (what triggers the behavior and how does it develop?) and the ultimate level (why and how did our evolutionary history imbue us with this capacity?). Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required
Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3457H: Honors Physical Science Colloquium
Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 4070H: Advanced Honors Elective Colloquium
These courses may be cross-listed with courses in graduate or professional programs or one-of-a-kind courses which may have no other more appropriate academic home. Interdisciplinary or experimental courses are encouraged.
Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: Restricted to juniors and seniors. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 4070HW: Advanced Honors Elective Colloquium - Writing Intensive
These courses may be cross-listed with courses in graduate or professional programs or one-of-a-kind courses which may have no other more appropriate academic home. Interdisciplinary or experimental courses are encouraged.
Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: Restricted to juniors and seniors. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 4950H: Honors Preceptorship
Active participation in a professor's research for up to six hours a week.
Credit Hour: 2-3
Prerequisites: written description of the work with professor's approval submitted in advance to Director of the Honors College. Junior standing required. Honors eligibility required