

Honors College

Contact Information

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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, 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 the Honors College.
2. Courses offered through individual departments. These include special topics courses and honors sections of regularly-offered courses.
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 historically-organized courses provides an interdisciplinary perspective on art, art history, literature, music, philosophy, and religion.
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences Series.** This series of 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 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.
- **Constitutionalism and Democracy Series.** Study the same texts and work through the same questions and concerns that the nation's early leaders and citizens engaged with during the years spanning from before the American Revolution through the aftermath of the War of 1812.
- **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, Health, Nursing, and Law.
- **Honors Tutorials.** These 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. Credit is available for research, internships, and independent academic study.
- **Honors Colloquia.** These courses focus on interdisciplinary topics and typically adopt a more flexible and experimental approach to teaching.
- **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 a Learning-by-Contract, students must enter into a contractual agreement with a professor and gain approval from the director of the Honors College. Contractual forms are available on our website (<https://honors.missouri.edu/courses/learning-by-contract>).
- **Honors Credit Via Graduate Course Work.** Honors students may earn credit toward the Honors Certificate by taking graduate-level classes. Graduate Course Work applications can be found on our website (<https://honors.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/graduate-credit-form.pdf>).

More information on honors courses can be found on the Honors College website. (<http://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 (allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, podiatry, and physician assistant), dentistry, or optometry. 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 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

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 1420) 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 1390) 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 1350) 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 (<https://honors.missouri.edu/admission>).

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. 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. The application can be found on the website (<https://honors.missouri.edu/admission/transfer-students>).

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 (<https://honors.missouri.edu/admission/current-students>).

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.

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 24 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 24 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) (<https://honors.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/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 (<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. For more information, see the Application for Graduation with the Honors Certificate (<https://honors.missouri.edu/graduating-with-honors/honors-certificate-application>).

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 honor 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 S/U 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 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: The Middle Ages and the Renaissance - Honors/Writing Intensive

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 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 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 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

GN_HON 3120HW: Honors Humanities Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive

Credit Hour: 2-3

Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3210H: Honors Behavioral Colloquium

Credit Hour: 2-3

Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3210HW: Honors Behavioral Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive

Credit Hour: 2-3

Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3230H: Honors Social Science Colloquium

Credit Hour: 2-3

Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3230HW: Honors Social Science Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive

Credit Hour: 2-3

Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3241H: Human Nature

(same as ANTHRO 3340H). 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 particular, we will use evolutionary theory to unify explanations from disparate disciplines like biology, psychology, and anthropology. 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

GN_HON 3241HW: Human Nature - Honors/Writing Intensive

(same as ANTHRO 3340H). 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 particular, we will use evolutionary theory to unify explanations from disparate disciplines like biology, psychology, and anthropology. 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

GN_HON 3242H: Interdisciplinary Topics in the Human Sciences: The Nature of Humans

This course investigates the dynamic qualities of human experience in psychological, social, and environmental context with a focus on contemporary global issues. Course topics vary by semester but will bridge the social and behavioral sciences to address an overarching question: What makes us human? We will explore the social and behavioral factors that shape our shared human condition as well as those that contribute to diversity in the human experience. We will then investigate the complexities of what it means to be human within the globally interconnected societies we live in today. How do we deal creatively with human diversity in addressing the global problems and uncertainties that confront us? What attitudes, practices, and projects might help us manage global uncertainties and opportunities more effectively? What is your role in the global community of the twenty-first century? In exploring these questions through intensive reading, writing, research, and discussion, this course will help you develop a global consciousness that is sensitive to the lived textures and realities of places and peoples around the world. This course satisfies three credit hours of general education requirements in the behavioral and social sciences and is part of the Honors College's Interdisciplinary Topics in the Human Sciences series. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3242HW: Interdisciplinary Topics in the Human Sciences: The Nature of Humans - Honors/Writing Intensive

This course investigates the dynamic qualities of human experience in psychological, social, and environmental context with a focus on contemporary global issues. Course topics vary by semester but will bridge the social and behavioral sciences to address an overarching question: What makes us human? We will explore the social and behavioral factors that shape our shared human condition as well as those that contribute to diversity in the human experience. We will then investigate the complexities of what it means to be human within the globally interconnected societies we live in today. How do we deal creatively with human diversity in addressing the global problems and uncertainties that confront us? What attitudes, practices, and projects might help us manage global uncertainties and opportunities more effectively? What is your role in the global community of the twenty-first century? In exploring these questions through intensive reading, writing, research, and discussion, this course will help you develop a global consciousness that is sensitive to the lived textures and realities of places and peoples around the world. This course satisfies three credit hours of general education requirements in the behavioral and social sciences and is part of the Honors College's Interdisciplinary Topics in the Human Sciences series. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3450H: Honors Biological, Physical, Math (Computer Sci.) 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
