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 Honors College. Up to nine hours of Honors Learning-by-Contract can be used toward the Honors Certificate.

- Honors Credit via Graduate Course Work. Honors students may earn credit toward the Honors Certificate by taking graduate-level classes. Up to nine hours of graduate course work can be used toward the Honors Certificate.

- 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 required 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.

Program Requirements

Maintenance 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 and participate in our Honors One Read program their first year. 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. Credit hour limits apply for some types of courses. Students should 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 Ceremony, students must apply no later than the end of the third week of classes in their final semester.

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
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 1050H: Honors Seminar
Freshman-sophomore seminar offering a small group opportunity to write about and discuss works chosen by instructor.
Credit Hour: 1
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 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
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 Center/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 Center/Online Writery tutors in future semesters.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: ENGLSH 1000; instructor's consent

GN_HON 2085H: Honors Independent Study
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 the Honors College. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2111H: Epic Destinies, Individual Journeys
Exploring the art, literature and philosophy of the Ancient Mediterranean World, this course will take us from the fall of Troy to the flowering of art, poetry and magic throughout the Roman Empire. We'll encounter tragic heroes, a suffering Job, Socrates, Plato and his student Aristotle, and the great Roman poets Virgil and Horace. We'll descend to the underworld at least twice, discover the origin of the phrase carpe diem and witness the Roman invention of concrete. Along the way, we'll find ourselves asking not simply what the Ancients believed, or under what circumstances and in what social and historical contexts the works of the Ancient Mediterranean World were composed or performed, but also how they continue to shape and influence our modern world. This is the first course in the long-running Honors Humanities Sequence.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2111HW: Epic Destinies, Individual Journeys - Honors/Writing Intensive
Exploring the art, literature and philosophy of the Ancient Mediterranean World, this course will take us from the fall of Troy to the flowering of art, poetry and magic throughout the Roman Empire. We'll encounter tragic heroes, a suffering Job, Socrates, Plato and his student Aristotle, and the great Roman poets Virgil and Horace. We'll descend to the underworld at least twice, discover the origin of the phrase carpe diem and witness the Roman invention of concrete. Along the way, we'll find ourselves asking not simply what the Ancients believed, or under what circumstances and in what social and historical contexts the works of the Ancient Mediterranean World were composed or performed, but also how they continue to shape and influence our modern world. This is the first course in the long-running Honors Humanities Sequence.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required
GN_HON 2112H: Here Be Monsters
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 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: Reasonable Devils and Dark Visions
Exploring the art, literature, music and philosophy of the Early Modern World, this course will take us from the delirious hills of La Mancha in 17th century Spain to a desperate slave ship in the South Pacific in the mid-19th century. Along the way, we’ll ponder our existence in a bread oven in the Netherlands, bathe in a lake of fire in Hell, confront the squalor of 18th century London, explore the perils of home schooling from Switzerland to the Arctic ice, brave Romantic madness in Germany and Russia, and be peered at by New England mermaids. This is the third course in the long-running Honors Humanities Sequence.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2114H: Diagnosing the Dark
Exploring the art, literature, music and philosophy of the Modern Era, this course will take us from the intellectual and social revolutions of the mid-19th century to the cusp of the 21st century. Along the way, we’ll encounter countries haunted by war and cities haunted by racism and crime. We will witness Modernist revolutions in seeing and making and even glimpse the dawn of the digital age and the first hint of the possibility of artificial intelligence. In the shadow of such events, the traditional themes of the Humanities - the problem of evil, the puzzle of human nature, the challenge of right action, the quest for justice, the mystery of love, our ethical and social responsibilities, and the continual search for a voice and an art adequate to our experience - resonate from work to work throughout our Era. This is the fourth course in the long-running Honors Humanities Sequence.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2114HW: Diagnosing the Dark - Honors/Writing Intensive
Exploring the art, literature, music and philosophy of the Modern Era, this course will take us from the intellectual and social revolutions of the mid-19th century to the cusp of the 21st century. Along the way, we’ll encounter countries haunted by war and cities haunted by racism and crime. We will witness Modernist revolutions in seeing and making and even glimpse the dawn of the digital age and the first hint of the possibility of artificial intelligence. In the shadow of such events, the traditional themes of the Humanities - the problem of evil, the puzzle of human nature, the challenge of right action, the quest for justice, the mystery of love, our ethical and social responsibilities, and the continual search for a voice and an art adequate to our experience - resonate from work to work throughout our Era. This is the fourth course in the long-running Honors Humanities Sequence.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2120H: Honors Humanities Colloquium
This course meets a general education humanities requirement.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2120HW: Honors Social Science Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive
Meets Social Science Requirement for Gen Ed.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2230H: Honors Social Science Colloquium
Meets Social Science Requirement for Gen Ed.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2230HW: Honors Social Science Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive
Meets Social Science Requirement for Gen Ed.

Credit Hours: 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: Behavioral 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. Meets general education requirement for behavioral sciences.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2244H: Behavioral Sciences Sequence II: 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). Meets general education requirement for behavioral sciences.
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 2247H: 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 2248H: 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 2310H: Honors Behavioral Colloquium
Earns general education credit for behavioral science.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing. 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
Evidence-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. Earns general education credit for physical and biological sciences.
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 2463H: Honors Humanities Colloquium
Earns general education humanities credit.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2463HW: Honors Humanities Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive
Earns general education humanities credit.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 2950H: Honors Research
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 3120H: Honors Humanities Colloquium
Earns general education humanities credit.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3120HW: Honors Humanities Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive
Earns general education humanities credit.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3210H: Honors Behavioral Colloquium
Earns general education credit for behavioral science.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required
GN_HON 3210HW: Honors Behavioral Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive
Earns general education credit for behavioral science.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3230H: Honors Social Science Colloquium
Earns general education credit for social science.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3230HW: Honors Social Science Colloquium - Honors/Writing Intensive
Earns general education credit for social science.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3242H: The Future Is Indigenous! - Honors
Today, Indigenous peoples around the world are reasserting an ancient idea that our human responsibilities to the planet come through place, and that our planetary responsibilities are fulfilled by investing in and learning from place. Place-based Indigenous thought and activism give us new ways of thinking about global citizenship within a more-than-human democracy of beings - a "pluriverse" - and changes our understanding of what it means to be human in the twenty-first century. After looking at the limitations of the system of global ethics in cosmopolitan philosophy, we will get acquainted with the "place thought" of three Indigenous peoples: the Western Apache of the USA, the Maori of Aotearoa/New Zealand, and the Huaorani of the Ecuadorian Amazon. 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: The Future Is Indigenous! - Honors/Writing Intensive
Today, Indigenous peoples around the world are reasserting an ancient idea that our human responsibilities to the planet come through place, and that our planetary responsibilities are fulfilled by investing in and learning from place. Place-based Indigenous thought and activism give us new ways of thinking about global citizenship within a more-than-human democracy of beings - a "pluriverse" - and changes our understanding of what it means to be human in the twenty-first century. After looking at the limitations of the system of global ethics in cosmopolitan philosophy, we will get acquainted with the "place thought" of three Indigenous peoples: the Western Apache of the USA, the Maori of Aotearoa/New Zealand, and the Huaorani of the Ecuadorian Amazon. 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 3452H: Honors Biological Science Colloquium
Earns general education credit for biological sciences.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3456H: Honors Math (Computer Sci.) Science Colloquium
Earns general education credit for mathematical science.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 3457H: Honors Physical Science Colloquium
Earns general education credit for physical science.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing required. Honors eligibility required

GN_HON 4050H: Honors College Cooperative Education Program
For Honors Cooperative Education Program Students. No billing hours, No term finalization.
Credit Hours: 0

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 Research
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 the Honors College. Junior standing required. Honors eligibility required