UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Leadership
Robert Pampel, Ph.D.
Director

Overview
Saint Louis University's Honors Program is designed for academically talented and intellectually curious students from all majors. The Honors Program encourages learning both in and out of the classroom through experiences such as seminar-style classes, independent studies, internships, research projects, and study abroad.

Students work closely with an honors advisor to create a rigorous course of study that advances academic and career interests. The Honors Program brings students and faculty together in a community of scholars to explore topics of mutual interest in an interdisciplinary way. In addition, it provides an experience through which students gain cultural competency skills, grow professionally, and discern their talents through reflection in the Jesuit tradition.

Program Highlights
The Saint Louis University Honors Program engages intellectually curious and academically successful students in a community-oriented towards the Jesuit ideals of holistic learning, academic rigor and community engagement. Through a combination of individually tailored curricula, experiential learning opportunities, and developmental guidance and mentorship, the Honors Program prepares students to become citizens who engage in the process of inquiry and apply their knowledge in service to society.

Alumni of the Honors Program attend highly selective professional schools around the country, pursue prestigious scholarships and fellowships, work for world-class businesses and non-profit organizations, and serve communities around the world through organizations like the Peace Corps and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

Honors Academic Advising
Each honors student at SLU is assigned an honors academic advisor. The honors advisor provides specialized secondary advising for students throughout their undergraduate careers. The honors advisor works with primary advisors in all schools and colleges as well as faculty and staff from specialty programs to provide support for honors students.

The honors advisor helps each student construct a rigorous curriculum plan directed at achieving her or his academic and career goals. The honors advisor is also available to discuss course selection, undergraduate research and capstone options, post-graduation plans, and distinguished scholarship opportunities. Students meet with their honors advisor at least once each academic year to keep track of their progress in the University Honors Program.

Curriculum Overview
The University Honors Program offers honors-only courses and smaller, seminar-style classes. Students are also encouraged to participate in internships, independent research projects and study abroad semesters.

Students must complete 24 credits of honors academic credit. Eighteen of the credits must be from traditional course-based experiences, and six credits must be from experiences outside the classroom. Three of these credits come in the form of a capstone project, a culminating research project in a student’s major or minor field of studies.

Admission Requirements
Admission to the University Honors Program is determined by a holistic review of prior academic performance, achievement on college entrance examinations, and evidence of interest in and fit for the program. Interested candidates must apply online.

Eligibility and Deadlines
First-time college students must have an outstanding high school academic record in a rigorous curriculum (represented by only ‘As’ and ‘Bs’ in all classes and a minimum 3.8 GPA). In addition to reviewing students’ transcript(s), the committee reviews a personal statement and letters of recommendation and ranks all applicants using a common, multi-dimensional rubric. Completed applications are due no later than December 1 for enrollment in the University Honors Program in fall of the freshman year.

Current students must have completed at least one semester at Saint Louis University, earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA, and have earned fewer than 45 credits at the time of application. Completed applications are due no later than October 15 for spring enrollment and February 15 for fall enrollment.

Transfer students must have earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA at their previous institution(s) and have earned fewer than 45 credits at the time of application. Transfer students may be awarded honors credit (not to exceed 12 units) for previous honors coursework at the discretion of the director of the University Honors Program. Decisions about honors transfer credit will be made at the time of admission. Completed applications are due no later than October 15 for spring enrollment and August 1 for fall enrollment.

International students with an outstanding academic record in a rigorous high school curriculum are encouraged to apply. An equivalent grade point average of at least 3.8 on a 4.0 scale and a minimum English proficiency score of 90 on the TOEFL (IBT) or 7.0 on the IELTS is required, in addition to the personal statement and letters of recommendation. International students are also encouraged to include a standardized test score (ACT or SAT) along with their application, when possible, but this is not required.

Academic Policies

Priority Registration
All active honors students are permitted to register one business day before other students at their grade level. For this purpose, students are categorized on the basis of completed semester credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>Fewer than 30 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>30 or more credits, but fewer than 60 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>60 or more credits, but fewer than 90 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>90 or more credits</td>
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</table>
**Withdrawning from an Honors Course**

Students are expected to complete all attempted honors credit options (both in-class and out-of-class). Withdrawing from an honors course after the University add/drop deadline may be arranged only in special circumstances with permission in advance from the director of the University Honors Program. Permission will be granted only in accordance with University deadlines for withdrawing from a course. Withdrawing from an honors course may adversely affect the student’s standing in the University Honors Program.

**Petition for Course Extension**

Students may submit a petition for course extension in an honors course with permission from the course instructor. The student must complete the course work within one year, or the grade for the course becomes an ‘F’ (in accordance with the University policy for incomplete grades).

**Taking Honors Courses Abroad**

Students studying abroad may take honors courses that will count towards the 24 required honors credits, but only with permission in advance from the director of the University Honors Program. Students may develop a contract for an honors course while studying at the Saint Louis University Madrid Campus; again, the student must have permission in advance from the director of the University Honors Program.

**Dismissal from the Honors Program**

Students must remain in good standing with the Honors Program by

1. Maintaining at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA
2. Earning honors credit every semester (some exceptions apply)
3. Earning a ‘B’ or better in any honors-designated courses (e.g., HR 1900 Crossroads: Intro to Honors (3 cr), HR 4930 Honors Senior Seminar (0-3 cr), or HR 4960 Honors Senior Capstone (0-3 cr); honors dual-listed courses; and any contracted honors course)

The University Honors Program reviews each student’s progress in all three of these areas at the end of each semester. Students who have a cumulative GPA below 3.5, and/or who have not consistently earned honors credit, and/or who earn a ‘B-’ or below in an honors-designated course are at risk of being dismissed from the program. All students at risk of dismissal are treated on a case-by-case basis. Students notified of dismissal are given the opportunity to appeal the decision. Students who are dismissed from the program are not permitted to re-enroll.

**Graduation Requirements**

Students who successfully complete all requirements and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 will graduate through the University Honors Program (listed on their official transcript). Latin Honors (e.g., cum laude) are awarded on the basis of grade point average and are not associated with the UHP.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Graduates will be able to communicate thoughtfully and effectively in multiple disciplines and contexts.
2. Graduates will be able to apply knowledge to social, cultural and professional contexts.
3. Graduates will be able to identify and apply multiple methods of inquiry to address complex questions.
4. Graduates will be able to conduct extensive, quality research or scholarship in a chosen academic field.
5. Graduates will be able to describe the evolution of their quest for personal and professional purpose, as it is situated in social, cultural and historical contexts.
6. Graduates will be able to demonstrate awareness of the complex identities of themselves and others.
7. Graduates will be able to discern how their engagement with diverse communities and cultures affects themselves and others.

**Requirements**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 1900</td>
<td>Crossroads: Intro to Honors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 4930</td>
<td>Honors Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 4960</td>
<td>Honors Senior Capstone</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Credits Outside the Classroom**

Select three credits from the following: 3

- HR 4810 Honors Teaching Assistantship
- HR 4820 Honors Study Abroad
- HR 4840 Honors Research
- HR 4850 Honors International Partnership
- HR 4860 Honors Professional Development and Vocational Discernment
- HR 4910 Honors Internship

**Credits in the Classroom**

Select 12 credits from the following: 12

- HR 4980 Honors Independent Study

Honors-only courses (see below)

Dual-listed courses (see below)

Course contracts (see below)

Graduate courses (see below)

Total Credits: 24

**Honors-Only Courses**

Numerous academic departments offer courses with enrollment limited to honors students. These courses are taught by some of Saint Louis University’s most distinguished faculty, and the class size is typically limited to 20 students. Many required core classes in the College of Arts and Sciences are offered as honors-only courses, such as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEO 1000</td>
<td>Theological Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 2210</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 1050</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 2050</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 1110</td>
<td>Origins of the Modern World to 1500</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 1120</td>
<td>Origins of the Modern World (1500 to Present)</td>
<td>3</td>
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Options vary by semester.

**Dual-listed Courses**

The majority of honors courses are dual-listed courses, which means that both honors students and non-honors students can enroll in the course. Dual-listed courses involve supplemental or enriched assignments for students to earn honors credit. Honors students must register specifically for the honors section of the course (designated by an ‘H’ in the section number) and must complete the supplemental or enriched honors work.
Students may not opt out of the honors section or the honors work after the University add/drop deadline, except with departmental approval.

**Course Contracts**

Students may elect to earn honors credit through a non-honors course by contracting the class with the professor. The course must be at the 3000- or 4000-level in the student’s major or minor area. Students must submit an Honors Contract Agreement with the professor’s support that describes supplemental or enriched assignments the student will complete for honors credit. Contracts must be submitted to the UHP for approval by the first Friday of the semester. Students may not opt out of the honors work, which is graded pass/no pass. For the course to count towards the student’s honors requirements, the student must pass the honors work and earn a ‘B’ or better in the course.

**Graduate Courses**

Graduate courses will count toward the 24 required honors credits, up to a maximum of 6 credits.

**Continuation Standards**

To remain active in the program, students must earn academic credit in an honors course or experience each semester (some exceptions apply, depending on a student’s progress and standing in the Honors Program).

Students must earn a ‘B’ or better in honors courses. This includes all courses with the ‘HR’ subject code, all dual-listed honors courses, as well as all contracted honors courses. Honors courses for which a student earns less than a ‘B’ will not count toward meeting UHP requirements. Students also must maintain at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average to remain in good standing with the UHP. Student progress is reviewed at the end of each semester; students below a 3.5 cumulative grade point average may enter a probation status or be dismissed from the program.

Students who successfully complete all requirements and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 will graduate through the University Honors Program (listed on their official transcript). Latin Honors (e.g., cum laude) are awarded on the basis of grade point average and are not associated with the UHP.