The Path to the Honors Diploma

Beginning in fall 2018, a student must successfully complete the following three requirements to earn the University Honors Diploma:

1. Required Honors Freshman and Sophomore Coursework (15 hours)
   - 15 hours of freshman and/or sophomore Honors credit chosen from at least three academic disciplines.

2. Upper-level Honors Coursework (9 hours) chosen from any combination of the following:
   - 300- or 400-level HONR course(s)
   - 300- or 400-level H course(s) in the major
   - H-option of course(s) in the major
   - Up to 3 hours of university-sponsored Study Abroad

3. Senior Thesis
   - Thesis criteria, available from the Honors Office, include a significant research or creative endeavor and an oral presentation of the project.
   - Students enroll in HONR 300 (1 hour) the semester they will complete and present the senior thesis.

Honors Courses

**Required Honors Freshman and Sophomore Coursework:** The foundation of the Honors experience takes place in the freshman and sophomore years when students work to complete at least 15 hours of 100- and/or 200-level Honors coursework chosen from at least three academic disciplines. This shared academic experience helps to create a vital academic community among Honors students. They share their ideas beyond the classroom, whether over coffee or in the dorm, and extend their intellectual friendships from semester to semester. Students are encouraged to take Honors courses beyond the 15-hour minimum to satisfy additional General Education and Major requirements as appropriate.

**Upper-level HONR courses:** These courses offer students an opportunity to study topics outside the standard curriculum. The courses are designed to deepen a student’s knowledge about particular intellectual issues and to demonstrate the interconnectedness of academic disciplines. Topics are considered from the perspectives of the pure and applied sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, the arts and humanities, and business and finance.

**H courses in the major:** Many programs have coursework specifically designated for juniors and seniors in their majors. Students should consult the schedule of classes, the catalogue, and the major department for additional information.

**Honors Options:** By completing an Honors Option contract (H-Option) in a course, a student may earn Honors credit in a regular class. The student must contract with the professor to complete additional and/or more-in-depth assignments. Upon completion, the student earns Honors credit that can be used to partially satisfy the requirements for the Honors Diploma. Contact the Honors Office for more information on the H-Option process.

Senior Thesis

The Honors diploma requires a senior thesis be done in the college in which a student majors. Under the direction of a faculty member from their major, each Honors student pursuing the Honors diploma selects a topic in the major, plans and completes a research project or creative endeavor, and presents the results in the form of a senior thesis. Credit for a senior thesis is approved by the Director of the Honors Program and overseen by enrollment in HONR 300 (1 hour). If a college or department does not designate a particular numbered course in which to do the senior thesis project, its students may select an appropriate 300-400 level course in the student’s major.