

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

University Honors Program

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[honors.colostate.edu \(http://honors.colostate.edu\)](http://honors.colostate.edu)

Program Philosophy

The University Honors Program, established in 1957, is a special learning community that offers extraordinary students a wide range of enriching educational experiences. Hallmarks of the program include small classes and interdisciplinary seminars taught by some of the University's finest teachers, individualized academic advising, faculty-mentored research and other creative activities, an optional residential learning community in the Academic Village, early registration for classes, co-curricular activities, a scholarship for students who enter the program in the freshman year, and assistance with applications for prestigious post-graduate awards. Approximately 1,900 students participate in the program where they receive a world class education, enjoy the personalized attention typically found at a small college, and benefit from the resources and diversity of a nationally acclaimed research university.

Main Features

University Honors Core Curriculum. Two curricular options provide enriched educational experiences for high achieving students in all majors. The Track 1 curriculum, designed for entering first-year students, is composed of five Honors seminars, two Honors courses in the major, and a faculty-mentored senior year creative activity (thesis). Completing Track 1 fulfills five of the categories in Colorado State University's All University Core Curriculum, as well as the oral communications requirement in most majors that require a speech class. Participating in the Honors program provides for a more enriched and rewarding education without extending the time to graduation.

The Track 2 curriculum, designed for continuing or transfer students, is composed of one to two honors seminars, five or six Honors courses (15-18 credits) and a faculty-mentored senior year creative activity (thesis). Students who have completed 12+ credits at CSU (or transfer institution) and have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average are eligible to apply. Entering first-year honors freshmen who transfer 30+ credits that already satisfy many AUCC categories through AP, IB, or college courses are also eligible for Track 2 after their first semester.

Graduating as a University Honors Scholar. Students who complete the Honors requirements and achieve at least a 3.500 cumulative grade point average earn the prestigious designation of University Honors Scholar. Scholars are recognized at graduation, and the University Honors Scholar designation appears on their diplomas and transcripts. For more information on graduation as a University Honors Scholar, see the section on Scholastic Standards (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/academic-standards/scholastic-standards/>).

Admission to the Program. The application and selection process, which targets high school seniors and transfer students, is designed to attract an Honors class that represents high academic achievement, diversity of life experiences, and great promise for contributing to the Honors and University communities. Typically, about 500 first-year students enroll in the Honors Program each year. Currently enrolled CSU students may also apply to the University Honors Program after their first semester of college, and transfer students with a 3.5 college GPA or higher are invited to apply.

The Honors Residential Learning Community. The optional Honors Residential Learning Community (HRLC) is located in the Academic Village and in Edwards Residence Hall. It links in-class and out-of-class student learning through residence life experiences and special programs. Students, especially first-year students, are encouraged to take advantage of this special opportunity. The HRLC is home to the Honors Office and classrooms that are used for seminars, special lectures, study sessions, and a wide variety of co-curricular activities. The 24/7 Fireside Lounge is located near the Program Office in the Academic Village.

The Honors Merit Scholarship. All new first-year students who have been admitted to, confirm to the program, and participate in the University Honors program receive a renewable scholarship. Students who remain in good standing with the University Honors Program and meet the minimum GPA requirement for continuation of the honors merit scholarship will receive the scholarship for four years. Transfer students are also eligible to receive the Honors scholarship for a maximum of two years. Students entering their senior year are also invited to apply for additional donor-funded scholarships, and all honors students are encouraged to apply for Honors Enrichment Awards and Thesis Improvement Grants to supplement their educational activities.

Requirements

Honors Entering Student Pathway

Honors Continuing/Transfer Student Pathway

University Honors Core Curricula

The Honors program of study provides exceptional academic studies that include breadth and perspectives, in-depth studies, a senior year creative activity, and Honors elective courses. Two curricular pathways provide enriched educational experiences for high ability students in all majors. The Entering Student Pathway curriculum fulfills nearly half of the All-University Core Curriculum (AUCC) requirements, allowing Honors students to graduate on schedule and without additional cost. The Continuing/Transfer Student Pathway curriculum satisfies Honors requirements by taking Honors courses in their majors and departments. Students who complete either curriculum and graduate with a cumulative 3.5 GPA or greater receive "University Honors Scholar" designation on their diploma and transcripts.

The Honors courses enroll between 18 and 22 students and are taught by some of the University's finest teachers.

Honors Entering Student Pathway Effective Fall 2025

Freshman

		AUCC	Credits
HONR 192	Honors First Year Seminar		3
HONR 193	Honors Seminar	1A	3
Total Credits			6

Sophomore

Select one course from the following:			3
HONR 292A	Honors Seminar: Knowing in the Sciences	3A	
HONR 292B	Honors Seminar: Knowing in Arts and Humanities (GT-AH2)	3B	
HONR 292C	Honors Seminar: Knowing Across Cultures (GT-SS3)	1C	
Honors course ¹			3
Total Credits			6

Junior

HONR 392	Honors Seminar	3B	3
HONR 399	Pre-thesis		1
Honors course ¹			3
Total Credits			7

Senior

HONR 492	Honors Senior Seminar	3C	3
HONR 499	Senior Honors Thesis		3
Total Credits			6
Program Total Credits:			25

¹ A total of six Honors credits relevant to the student's academic goals or interests, approved by the Honors program or Honors advisor. At least three credits must be upper-division.

Students completing the Honors Core Curriculum will fulfill the All-University Core Curriculum (AUCC) core competency requirements in the following categories: 1A; 1C; three credits of the six required for 3B – Arts and Humanities; 3C – Social and Behavioral Sciences; 3D – Historical Perspectives. Students completing some, but not all, of the program

will fulfill some of the AUCC core competencies. Complete details are available from the Honors Program office.

Honors Continuing/Transfer Student Pathway Effective Fall 2025

The Continuing/Transfer Student Pathway is available only to students with >15 college credits taken after admission to CSU or to students who have completed HONR 192 and wish to switch to this pathway (Honors Advisor approval is needed for students seeking to switch).

Junior

		AUCC	Credits
Select one course from the following:			3
HONR 292A	Honors Seminar: Knowing in the Sciences	3A	
HONR 292B	Honors Seminar: Knowing in Arts and Humanities (GT-AH2)	3B	
HONR 292C	Honors Seminar: Knowing Across Cultures (GT-SS3)	1C	
HONR 399	Pre-thesis		1
Honors courses ²			9
Total Credits			13

Senior

HONR 499	Senior Honors Thesis		3
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Honors courses ²	9
Total Credits	12
Program Total Credits:	25

Students may take an Honors course in the major and/or enroll in elective Honors courses in their first year on campus.

² A total of 18 credits of Honors courses relevant to the student's academic goals or interests, approved by the Honors program or Honors advisor. At least 15 credits must be upper division. Students who switch paths may count HONR 192, HONR 110, and/or HONR 193 toward the 18 required credits. Students may count HONR 392 and/or HONR 492 toward this requirement.