

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

University Honors Program

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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.