Honors College

MISSION
The Honors College enhances the undergraduate experience for high-achieving students at West Virginia University by building a community of scholars who enrich their education in the classroom and beyond.

The Honors College features three academic programs: University Honors for students enrolled prior to 2017, the Honors Foundations Program for first- and second-year students, and beginning in Fall 2019 an upper-division program for upper-class students.

UNIVERSITY HONORS REQUIREMENTS
PRESIDENTIAL HONORS SCHOLAR
- Students admitted to WVU prior to Fall 2017
- 3.5 grade point average
- Twenty-five hours of Honors-eligible credit hours
- At least one credit hour of Honors-eligible orientation (HONR 199 or eligible departmental first-year seminar)
- Three to six credits of thesis or an approved Honors senior project, including approved study abroad, undergraduate research, or internship. Thesis hours can be used to count toward 25-hour total.

DEAN’S HONORS SCHOLAR
- Students admitted to WVU prior to Fall 2017
- 3.4 grade point average
- Sixteen hours of Honors-eligible credit hours
- At least one credit hour of Honors-eligible orientation (HONR 199 or eligible departmental first-year seminar)
- (Optional) Three to six credits of thesis or an approved Honors senior project, including approved study abroad, undergraduate research, or internship.

Students admitted to WVU prior to Fall 2017 may shift between Presidential and Dean’s levels as academic performance merits.

HONORS FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
Most eligible students will meet the following criteria:
- 3.7 High School GPA (weighted or unweighted), and
- 26 ACT or 1180 SAT (M/CR) or 1250 Redesigned SAT (M/EBRW)

The Honors College also invites a small number of students (with unusually promising application profiles that nonetheless do not meet the above criteria) to participate in an alternative application process.

Students may also join the Honors Foundations Program with a 3.7 cumulative GPA after the first semester of full-time course work with no withdrawals or incompletes, or if they transfer to WVU in good standing in an Honors program at their previous institution.

HONORS FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM BENEFITS
- Smaller class sizes, often under 25 students;
- Access to innovative Honors course topics;
- Dedicated Honors housing and community activities;
- Priority registration for classes before general population students;
- Honors advising, tutoring, and mentoring;
- Opportunities for peer leadership and community service;
- Recognition at graduation and on their transcripts;
- Connections with a community of Honors students.

HONORS FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
Students will ideally complete the program within four semesters, typically taking one three credit Honors course per semester. In order to complete the program, students must:
• Complete a minimum of five Honors courses (including a one-credit Honors-eligible orientation course) and a minimum of 13 Honors credits.
• Meet ongoing requirements for good standing:
  • After year one, students must have completed at least two Honors courses/four Honors credits (including an Honors-eligible orientation experience), and must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.0 GPA in Honors courses.
  • If a student needs to extend enrollment in the program in order to complete the requirements after year two, students must have completed four Honors courses/ten Honors credits (including an Honors-eligible orientation experience), and must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.5 GPA in Honors courses.
• Meet appropriate final requirements, including
  • Minimum 3.5 GPA in Honors credits
  • Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time of program completion
  • Participation in the Honors exit interview process

UPPER DIVISION HONORS PROGRAM
Beginning in Spring 2019, rising juniors may apply to join the Honors College upper-division program. The upper-division program is rooted in experiential learning and will require students to submit a proposal that will be evaluated for admission. All WVU students may apply, regardless of previous enrollment in the Honors College.

Students in the program will complete an independent experiential learning project. Most projects will fall under one of the following headings: 1) Discipline-specific research 2) Production of substantial creative works 3) Study abroad 4) Community engagement 5) Internships 6) Inter-disciplinary work in a group of peers. Other projects will be considered through the application process. All projects will include at least 6CR of experiential learning and will culminate in a work of scholarly or creative work appropriate to the project. Details about the program and the admission process will be announced in advance of the initial Spring 2019 proposal cycle.

ADMINISTRATION

DEAN
• Kenneth P. Blemings - Ph.D.
  University of Wisconsin

ASSISTANT DEAN
• Damien Clement - Ph.D.
  West Virginia University

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
• Ashley Watts - MS
  West Virginia University

DIRECTOR HONORS LIVE/LEARN COMMUNITY
• Kevin Gooding - Ph.D.
  Purdue University

DIRECTOR UPPER DIVISION HONORS PROGRAM
• Dana Huebert Lima - Ph.D.
  University of Wisconsin