Honors College

Mission

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

The Honors College features two academic programs: Honors Foundations Program for first- and second-year students, and Honors EXCEL (Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning) Program for upper-class students.

HONORS FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Standard Admission:

• 3.7 High School GPA (weighted or unweighted), and
• 26 ACT or 1230 Redesigned SAT (M/EBRW)

Students invited through standard admissions will submit an application that consists of one short admissions essay. Applications submitted through standard admissions will be evaluated on a rolling basis.

Test Blind Admission:

Test blind invitations are based on meeting a qualifying GPA:

• 3.7+ on a 4.0 scale OR
• 4.0+ on a 5.0 scale.

Students who are invited through this process will complete an extended application. Extended applications will be considered for admission by the Honors Admissions Committee.

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. For transfer students, consideration is given to the number of completed credits.

HONORS FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM BENEFITS

• Smaller sections of General Education Foundation (GEF) and introductory major courses
• Access to innovative Honors topics courses (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/faculty-advisors/honors-faculty-fellows/)
• Honors classes that focus on enrichment instead of acceleration
• Inclusion in an Honors community (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/community/)—including Honors housing, peer leadership opportunities and co-curricular programming—designed to make the large campus smaller
• Priority registration
• Honors Advising in your major
• Peer tutoring (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/community/tutoring/) and mentoring (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/community/honors-mentoring-program/)
• Recognition at graduation and on your transcript
• Participation in rewarding community service activities
• Connections with other Honors students—some of the best and brightest on a world-class research campus

HONORS FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students will ideally complete the program in 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 HONR 102 - Introduction to Honors) 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 HONR 102), and must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.0 GPA in Honors courses.
  • Students who do not meet this requirement will be suspended from the program.
• Students may apply 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 HONR 102), and must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and a minimum 3.5 GPA in Honors courses.
• Students who have been found responsible for violating WVU's Policy on Student Academic Integrity may be dismissed from the Honors College at the end of the semester in which the violation occurred and will be permanently prohibited from being readmitted to the Honors College.
• Meet appropriate final requirements, including
  • Minimum 3.5 GPA in Honors credits at the time of program completion
  • Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time of program completion
  • Participation in the Honors exit process

HONORS EXCEL (EXPERIENTIAL AND COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING) PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Honors EXCEL program supports WVU undergraduate students in experiential and community-engaged projects. Students will develop skills in leadership, project management, communication and collaborative scholarship. Students will create scholarly products appropriate to their project, while advancing the service mission of WVU.

HONORS EXCEL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students may apply for the program regardless of previous enrollment in the Honors College. Students with a cumulative GPA 3.4 or higher can apply for the program when they have 3-4 semesters remaining. Students with GPAs between 3.0 and 3.4 may apply with a faculty recommendation.

Admissions will prioritize projects that feature the following experiential values:
• the project is long-term (3-4 semesters), feasible and innovative.
• represents an identifiable enhancement of a knowledge base or set of skills already being pursued by the student, either via coursework or extracurricular activity.
• builds on prior scholarship and proposes appropriate methodologies, processes or practices.
• is mentored by a WVU faculty or staff member.
• has an expectation of positive impact to a community (defined broadly) beyond the benefits to the student alone.
• includes at least some aspects that are unique to the applicant. Although all projects will likely be collaborations with faculty, staff, community members and/or other students, all projects must demonstrate a sense of ownership by the student.

HONORS EXCEL PROGRAM BENEFITS

• Opportunities to deeply pursue projects of academic and personal interest
• Curricular and financial support for student projects
• Mentorship from faculty in the discipline and in the Honors College
• Connections with a community of Honors students
• Priority registration for classes
• Recognition at graduation, on the transcript and on the diploma

HONORS EXCEL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students in the program will complete an experiential learning project over the course of at least three semesters. Most projects will fall under one of the following headings: 1) Discipline-specific research; 2) Creative works, innovation and design; 3) Global enrichment; 4) Community engagement or social action; 5) Internships; or 6) Collaborative work in a group of peers. Other projects will be considered through the application process. All projects will culminate in a scholarly or creative work appropriate to the project. Additionally, students will:

• Complete the two EXCEL Program courses: HONR 450 Honors EXCEL Project Development in the first semester of participation in the program and HONR 451 Honors EXCEL: Summative Experience in the last semester of participation.
• Complete 6 credits of approved experiential learning. These credits may come from a variety of course numbers in any discipline including, but not limited to, 491, 495, 497 or 498. In some circumstances, students may count courses toward both the degree program and the Honors EXCEL program.
• Complete a set of out-of-class experiences each semester. These will be defined by the student and their faculty mentor and should include experiences that contribute to and enhance work in the EXCEL program.
• Complete a end-of-semester progress report at the end of each fall and spring semester.
• Meet ongoing requirements for good standing:
  • After year one, students must have completed HONR 450 Honors EXCEL Project Development and filed their project prospectus with the Honors College EXCEL Program.
• Each Fall and Spring semester, maintain an institutional GPA of at least 3.0 and complete the required out-of-class experiences and progress report.
• In the final semester, complete HONR 451 Honors EXCEL: Summative Experience, submit the final written portion of the project, and participate in the Honors Exit Interview.
• Students with a verified violation of WVU's Policy on Student Academic Integrity will be removed from the program and will not be readmitted.
• Students who do not meet these requirements will be suspended from the program. Suspended students can not apply for funding, do not receive priority registration, and will not be approved for experiential learning credits.

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
  • Ashley Watts - Ph.D.
    West Virginia University

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

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

HONR 101. Honors Hall Council. 1 Hour.
An introduction to the process of planning and implementing community activities. Students produce a proposal, complete with a budget for an activity, which is evaluated by their peers. Students read and discuss articles on Leadership that frame their performance and interactions in an academic context.

HONR 102. Introduction to Honors. 1 Hour.
This course is designed to assist first year Honors students in identifying the knowledge and skills they will need to meet their personal, social, academic, and professional goals as they transition into the Honors College at West Virginia University.

HONR 191. First-Year Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Engages students in active learning strategies that enable effective transition to college life at WVU. Students will explore school, college and university programs, policies and services relevant to academic success. Provides active learning activities that enable effective transition to the academic environment. Students examine school, college and university programs, policies and services.

HONR 201. Peer Tutoring. 2 Hours.
PR: Students must be Honors College members in good academic standing. This course is a forum for the exchange of ideas and an environment where tutors learn effective tutoring strategies.

HONR 202. Science and Technology. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the systematic methods of analysis to scientific developments, technological advancements, and our evolving natural world through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 202A. Science and Technology. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the systematic methods of analysis to scientific developments, technological advancements, and our evolving natural world through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 203. Honors Mathematics and Quantitative Skills. 3 Hours.
An introduction to mathematics and quantitative techniques and practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 203A. Everyday Data Analysis. 3 Hours.
An introduction to mathematics and quantitative techniques and practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts through focused, engaging subjects.
HONR 204. Society and Connections. 3 Hours.
An introduction to analysis of human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 204A. Society and Connections. 3 Hours.
An introduction to analysis of human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 204B. Society and Connections. 3 Hours.
An introduction to analysis of human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 205. Human Inquiry and the Past. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the humanistic study of historical, philosophical, and spiritual inquiry through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 205A. Human Inquiry and the Past. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the humanistic study of historical, philosophical, and spiritual inquiry through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 205B. Human Inquiry and the Past. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the humanistic study of historical, philosophical, and spiritual inquiry through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 205C. Human Inquiry and the Past. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the humanistic study of historical, philosophical, and spiritual inquiry through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 205D. Human Inquiry and the Past. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the humanistic study of historical, philosophical, and spiritual inquiry through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 206. Arts and Creativity. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the study of artistic expression through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 206A. Arts and Creativity. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the study of artistic expression through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 206B. Arts and Creativity. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the study of artistic expression through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 206C. Arts and Creativity. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the study of artistic expression through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 207. Global Studies and Diversity. 3 Hours.
An introduction to methods and principles of critical inquiry to explore global issues and cultural, linguistic, or experiential diversity through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 207A. Global Studies and Diversity. 3 Hours.
An introduction to methods and principles of critical inquiry to explore global issues and cultural, linguistic, or experiential diversity through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 207B. Global Studies and Diversity. 3 Hours.
An introduction to methods and principles of critical inquiry to explore global issues and cultural, linguistic, or experiential diversity through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 207C. Global Studies and Diversity. 3 Hours.
An introduction to methods and principles of critical inquiry to explore global issues and cultural, linguistic, or experiential diversity through focused, engaging subjects.

HONR 210. City-As-Text-Morgantown. 3 Hours.
National Collegiate Honors Council's framework City-As-Text uses Morgantown as the basis for an interactive course which uses primary document and physical structures to investigate the historical, political, cultural and social aspects of place. The central question that the course seeks to answer is How does a Space become a Place?

HONR 213. Growing Up in America. 3 Hours.
Students in this course explore the how the issues of gender, race/ethnicity, social class, time period, and location shaped cultural understandings of the child and a child's experience as a child throughout American history.

HONR 215. Confronting Pseudoscience. 3 Hours.
Using the tools of evidential reasoning and critical thinking this course examines the difference between a true scientific endeavor and pseudoscientific belief systems.

HONR 219. Future Campus Reads. 1 Hour.
Students in this course will read the five books chosen for the Campus Read Short List. Then, through analysis and discussion, students will make written recommendations to the Provost regarding the benefits and challenges of selecting each book for the Campus Read.

HONR 245. Service in Tutoring. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the basic principles, practices, and current theory of peer tutoring. This course will provide Honors students the opportunity to tutor in local high schools while learning about topics of interest in education. Students will engage in reflection and critical inquiry that link service learning to academic learning.
HONR 285. Summer Guided Reading. 3 Hours.
Students will explore various reading topics. They will be required to complete assigned readings and submit review papers on the readings.

HONR 293. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

HONR 297. Research. 1-6 Hours.
Independent research projects.

HONR 298. Honors. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Students in Honors Program and consent by the honors director. Independent reading, study, or research.

HONR 301. Advanced Peer Tutoring. 1,2 Hour.
PR: Students must be members of the Honors College in good academic standing and have completed HONR 201. (May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credit hours.) This course is designed as a forum for the exchange of ideas and an environment where advanced peer tutors can learn and discuss effective strategies for helping their University peers study various subjects.

HONR 393. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

HONR 401. Peer Leadership Practicum. 1,2 Hour.
PR: Students must be members of the Honors College in good academic standing and have completed HONR 201 and HONR 301. (May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credit hours.) This course is designed as a forum for the exchange of ideas and an environment where advanced peer tutors can learn and discuss effective strategies for helping their University peers study various subjects.

HONR 402. Foundations of Peer Mentoring. 3 Hours.
PR: Students must be in good academic standing with the Honors College to enroll in this course. This course is designed to develop mentors who will lead HONR 199. This course will focus on strategies and tactics used by successful university instructors, practice of these techniques, and the production of materials.

HONR 412. The Salem Witch Trials. 3 Hours.
The Salem Witch Trials are one of the iconic events of American History. This class examines the trials themselves and their interpretations in scholarly works, art, drama and film, poetry and other media.

HONR 450. Honors EXCEL Project Development. 1 Hour.
This course will enable and enhance experiential learning for students in the Honors EXCEL program. Students will develop skills in leadership, project management, communication and collaborative scholarship.

HONR 451. Honors EXCEL: Summative Experience. 1 Hour.
This course is designed to enable and enhance experiential learning for students in the Honors EXCEL program. Students will develop written and oral communication skills. Students will present their work to stakeholders on- and/or off-campus.

HONR 490. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Teaching practice as a tutor or assistant.

HONR 491. Professional Field Experience. 1-9 Hours.
PR: Consent. (May be repeated up to a maximum of 9 hours.) Prearranged experiential learning program, to be planned, supervised, and evaluated for credit by faculty and field supervisors. Involves temporary placement with public or private enterprise for professional competence development.

HONR 493. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

HONR 494. Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Presentation and discussion of topics of mutual concern to students and faculty.

HONR 495. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

HONR 496. Senior Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent.

HONR 497. Research. 1-6 Hours.
Independent research projects.

HONR 498. Honors. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Students in Honors Program and consent by the honors director. Independent reading, study or research.

HONR 499. Global Service Learning. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Theory and practice of global service-learning. The main objective will be to pair the experiential aspects of meaningful and sustained service in the host community with work from the student's anchor course by offering a methodological framework for cultural immersion and community service as well as adding to the content of the anchor course.