

## Overview

The College Honors Program exemplifies Messiah College's commitment to academic excellence and fostering an intellectually rigorous Christian worldview, with the goal of equipping young men and women for lives of leadership and service.

The College Honors Program is designed for students who demonstrate high scholarly ability early in their academic career. The program curriculum is comprised of general education honors courses and a Senior Honors Project. In addition to the credit bearing curriculum, students meet each semester outside of the classroom in the Honors Congress to discuss timely issues and interact with special campus guests. Throughout the academic year students also have opportunities to participate in on- and off-campus academic and cultural activities. Upon graduation students receive special recognition at commencement, and on their college transcript and diploma.

Students from all of the college's applied and liberal arts majors are eligible to participate. Moreover, in keeping with the college's commitment to educating the whole person, students in the Honors Program are encouraged to participate in the college's many co-curricular opportunities.

## Application Process

The College Honors Program is open to first year students. The minimum qualifications include a 1300 SAT score and ranking in the top 10% of the student's high school class. No special application is required. As part of the regular admission process, students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements are evaluated for the program. From the eligible pool of candidates, students are selected for on-campus interviews. After the on-campus interview and evaluation of all other application materials, approximately 100 students are selected to enter the program in the fall. Most students selected for the College Honors Program receive either full or partial tuition scholarships.

## On Campus

During Welcome Week first-year students in the College Honors Program participate in a Presidential Reception where, among other things, they meet the other new students in the program. Throughout their time at Messiah College, academic advising is provided by faculty in the department of their chosen major. The Director of the College Honors Program provides additional academic advising and information regarding requirements and activities associated with the College Honors Program.

## Curricular Requirements

### Course Requirements

1. Freshman Year  
→ Honors Section of First Year Seminar
2. Sophomore and Junior Years

Participants Matriculating in and after the Fall of 2005
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Participants in the College Honors Program take three interdisciplinary courses [ID] courses, two of which must be honors courses. One of these honors ID courses must be met through an honors section in the Engaging a Pluralistic World category. The other honors ID course must be an honors section taken from either the Science, Technology and the World category or Non-Western category.

Note: Students with academic majors for which the Science, Technology and the World requirement is met by an overlap with major requirements may elect an IDST (STW) course as one of their two ID honors requirements

Participants Matriculating before the Fall of 2005

Three of the following four interdisciplinary [ID] courses of which two must be satisfied through honors sections:

Science, Technology and the World  
Non-Western Studies  
Ethics in the Modern World  
World Views or Pluralism in Contemporary America

Note: Students with academic majors for which the Science, Technology and the World requirement is met by an overlap with major requirements may elect an STW course as one of the three areas of study.

### **SENIOR HONORS PROJECT [Required of all participants, regardless of matriculation date]**

This requirement can be met in one of the following three ways:

1. HON498, 499: Senior Honors Project
2. Department Honors or Department Project
3. HON497: Senior Honors Seminar

(More information about the Seniors Honors Project is found on the College Honors Program web site.)

### **NON-CREDIT BEARING REQUIREMENTS**

- Honors Congress

→ Participation in three semester-long Congresses before graduation.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM**

Participation in the College Honors Program requires that all participants meet the grade point average requirement for either the Trustees' or President's Scholarship. For President's Scholarship recipients, renewal of these scholarships is contingent on maintaining a 3.2 GPA as a first year student and a 3.4 GPA each subsequent year. For Trustees' Scholarship recipients, renewal is contingent on maintaining a 3.3 GPA as a first year student and a 3.6 GPA each subsequent semester. Participation in the College Honors Program is also required for scholarship renewal. College Honors Program participants receiving the Provost scholarship must meet the GPA requirements for the President's scholarship to continue in the program.

## **Senior Honors Project**

The Senior Honors Project may be met in one of the following three ways:

1. HONR 497: Senior Honors Seminar (3)

An interdisciplinary capstone seminar for students in the College Honors Program. The thematic focus of each seminar will be defined by the professor and will include intensive reading, discussion, and a written research paper.

## 2. Department Honors or Department Project

The Senior Honors Project may overlap with department honors or a department project, but must meet the parameters for the Senior Honors Project. (See below)

## 3. HONR 498, HONR 499: Senior Honors Project

A two semester project that can take a variety of forms, including an interdisciplinary thesis, creative arts project, or service learning project. All projects must fulfill the parameters for the Senior Honors Project. (See below)

### Parameters for Senior Honors Projects, options 2 & 3 above:

- Projects must be of graduate level quality;
- Projects must reflect the methodological, theoretical, and substantive expectations for scholarship in the project area;
- Projects must be two semesters and total 4 to 6 credit hours;
- Projects may begin second semester of the junior year;
- Projects must be approved by the Honors Director and faculty supervisor during the semester preceding the start of the project;
- Projects must culminate with some type of public dissemination, such as a thesis defense, presentation, demonstration, or performance.

Additional information about the College Honors Program can be found on the program website:  
<http://www.messiah.edu/academics/honors/>