



Frequently asked questions

Messiah University Honors Program



The Honors Program provides enhanced learning opportunities in and out of the classroom without adding additional curricular requirements.

Honors students experience camaraderie and conversation with fellow student and faculty scholars through compelling interdisciplinary courses, public lectures, films, theatre performances, concerts, field trips, and special events and opportunities.



“The Messiah University Honors Program helps bright, curious students who wish to further hone their gifts and talents within a community that is both rigorous and supportive.

For 20 years now, graduates have been making their mark in the world by contributing to the growth of knowledge and the well-being of others, all to the honor and glory of God.”

— Dr. James B. LaGrand, Ph.D., Honors Program director

Scholarships

If you are selected for the Honors Program, you will receive one of Messiah University’s premier scholarships as follows:

- **Trustees’ Scholarship** (4 awards)
Full-tuition, replaces Provost’s Scholarship
- **President’s Scholarship** (about 70 awards)
\$5,000 added to \$15,000 Provost’s Scholarship
- **Faculty Scholarship** (about 30 awards)
\$1,000 added to \$15,000 Provost’s Scholarship

You may also qualify for other institutional aid based upon your financial need analysis.

Selective admission

Admission to the Honors Program is highly selective and occurs during the senior year of high school. Qualification for these premier scholarships is determined by a combinations of SAT, ACT or CLT scores and high school GPA. To determine your eligibility, see messiah.edu/honors/scholarships. Students must complete the Messiah University application process by Jan. 15.

There is no separate application for the Honors Program. Accepted students who meet the qualifications described above will be contacted by the Admissions Office and invited to interview during one of our Honors Scholarship Events.

Will the Honors Program separate me from the rest of the campus community?

No. Our program is intentionally designed to keep you in contact and interacting with our entire campus community.

Will I have time to get involved in campus life?

Yes! The curricular requirements for honors are embedded within the general education requirements—there are no additional academic requirements. We want and encourage honors students to be involved in clubs, organizations, athletics, community service, spiritual life activities, the arts and other enriching activities.

How difficult is the Honors Program?

There certainly is rigor in the Honors Program, but you will find the Messiah community ready to care for and support you. We have enough confidence in our selection and interview process that should you be offered admission into the Honors Program, then we believe you can and will succeed.

Will I be able to pursue other enrichment opportunities outside of the Honors Program?

Yes! You will have full access to Messiah’s nationally-recognized programs for study abroad, service, community engagement, internships and research. In many instances, these experiences will align well with Honors Program requirements.

Is the Honors Program designed for specific majors?

No. The Honors Program is designed for students in all majors. In fact, nearly every major is represented among the program’s current enrollment of nearly 400 students.

The Messiah University Honors Program

is designed for students who demonstrate high academic ability combined with leadership and involvement. It strives to equip students for lives of leadership, service and reconciliation by fostering an **active integration of academic rigor with a vibrant Christian worldview.**

Curricular requirements

As a student in the Honors Program, you will take a total of four interdisciplinary courses that meet general education requirements. These courses are taught by several of Messiah University's most-engaging faculty.

While the curricular requirements are intended to help immerse honors students in themes and issues that align with Messiah's mission, they also provide a framework to help you identify and actively pursue your passions, talents and interests.

<p>First year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-Year Seminar (honors section) • Created and Called for Community (honors section) 	<p>Sophomore or junior years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One interdisciplinary course of your choosing (honors section)
<p>Senior Year</p> <p>Senior honors project <i>or</i> senior honors seminar</p>	

Honors Program alumnus

Elliot Rossomme '17
Chemistry, minor in mathematics

- Studied abroad at Oxford
- Worked as a researcher for Georgetown University and the University of Georgia
- Currently pursuing a master's in physical chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley as a chancellor's fellow on a full-tuition scholarship



Previous Honors Program events include a panel on manhood and womanhood today with Dr. Jeff Ogbar and Dr. Agnes Howard (above).



Book of the Year

First-year students in the Honors Program read an important book together throughout the academic year and attend discussion seminars and lectures on it.

Honors Program Activities

Every semester, the Honors Program sponsors many events, including lectures, discussions, panels, concerts, plays, movies and trips that add to the cultural and intellectual climate on campus. Students in the Honors Program are required to attend at least two of these events every semester that they are on campus.

Past speakers have included Ross Douthat on being a Christian and citizen, Dr. Greg Moore on technology and healthcare, and Dr. Jeff Ogbar and Dr. Agnes Howard on manhood and womanhood today.

Recognitions

- During the fall welcome week, new students and their parents attend the welcome week reception.
- Before graduation, senior students and family members attend the Senior Honors Awards Ceremony, at which students will receive a special, proprietary Honors Program medallion.
- At commencement, graduating students receive recognition on their diplomas and transcripts.

400 eager employers and some of the nation's best grad schools welcome Messiah graduates into their organizations

If you plan to attend graduate school, the Honors Program will prepare you extremely well for the graduate schools of your choice. Recent Messiah graduates have enrolled in these top-flight institutions:

- Boston University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Fordham University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Yale University

Six themes

As faculty and students in the Honors Program together strive for intellectual excellence and Christian faithfulness, these six themes guide our experiences both in and out of the classroom:



1. Exploring fundamental questions

With those thinkers who came before us, we desire to explore fundamental questions about who we are and how we should conduct ourselves.



2. Facing disputed questions

We do not avoid those questions about which reasonable people differ, but rather face them together in a spirit of both inquiry and civility toward others who hold various opinions.



3. Cultivating a Christian worldview

We look for the ways in which our Christian faith rightly shapes our thinking—how we read, write, study and act.



4. Growing and applying talents

We want to be found faithful in how we use our gifts and talents, and long to hear our Lord's affirmation, "Well done."



5. Engaging in conversation

Both in and out of the classroom, concerning both academic and non-academic matters, we enjoy learning from one another and about one another through conversation.



6. Enjoying community

In both serious and light-hearted ways, we enjoy looking for and receiving things that are good, true and beautiful together as a community.