# Honors College Student Handbook

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The Honors College Student Handbook is designed to answer your questions about Honors College benefits and opportunities, advising and support services, the curriculum, and registration procedures. Please keep it on hand for future reference.

Contact the Honors College office at (414) 229-4658 if you have questions about any of the information in this handbook.
Welcome to the Honors College

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Honors College has been an important part of UWM since its founding by Dr. Herman Weil, Professor of Psychology, in 1960. Within the university's large, urban setting, the Honors College offers the benefits of a small liberal arts college, within a major research university, to a select group of students.

Honors College students come from a wide range of academic and cultural backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of UWM's student body. The Honors College faculty, many of whom have received prestigious teaching awards, are among UWM's best. They teach small seminars, giving Honors students the opportunity to work closely with top scholars and educators. And because the Honors College enrolls a limited number of students, Honors faculty and staff are able to give each student a high level of individual attention, both inside and outside the classroom.

For all of these reasons, as well as the high academic quality of Honors courses, the Honors College helps students develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed after college, whether in the professional world or in postgraduate education.

About 600 students from all majors across campus are enrolled in the Honors College, and each year about 60 students graduate with an Honors degree—the highest undergraduate degree you can attain at UWM.

The Honors College offers the benefits of a small liberal arts college within a major research university.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students pursuing their first degree can join the Honors College as freshmen, continuing, or transfer students. Freshmen are admitted on the basis of high school record and ACT composite score. Continuing UWM and transfer students should have a cumulative GPA equivalent to their year in school (see below) and have met the University English requirement. All students new to Honors must meet with an Honors advisor to discuss how the Honors College can be integrated into their academic plans.

CONTINUING IN THE HONORS COLLEGE

Honors College students must meet the following cumulative GPA/enrollment criteria:

A. To continue in the Honors College, students must maintain the following minimum grade point averages for work done at UWM by the beginning of their year in school:

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Minimum GPA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Freshmen (after first semester)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors/To graduate with an Honors degree</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Students admitted as new freshmen who need to complete the University English Requirement must complete Honors 200 in the first semester following their completion of the English requirement.

C. Students who do not take Honors courses for two consecutive semesters will be considered “inactive” and dropped from the Honors College.

GRADUATING WITH HONORS

All UWM Undergraduate Schools and Colleges now offer the Honors Degree, a special diploma awarded to students who complete Honors College requirements. Students who complete a Senior Thesis or Project, or complete two semesters of Research in Honors, receive a special “Honors with Distinction” degree. Graduating with an Honors Degree provides convincing evidence of outstanding academic achievement, a valuable accomplishment students can note on resumes and graduate school applications. To graduate with Honors, students must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 and accumulate at least 21 Honors credits. See Courses and Curriculum, pages 14-16, for details.
Benefits and Opportunities

Honors students receive many benefits. Among these are priority registration, designated Honors study facilities, extensive interaction with Honors faculty, and special academic and scholarship opportunities.

**Priority Registration**

Honors students have access to priority registration. This means that Honors students may register before most other students. See Registering for Honors Courses, page 12, for instructions on priority registration.

**Honors College Study Facilities**

The Honors College has several study facilities: **Honors House 105**, which provides a place where Honors students can socialize and study, **Honors House 169**, a quiet study center, and **Golda Meir Library W204**, a room also reserved for quiet study. Please contact the Honors College office (Honors House 154) for the W204 lock combination.

**Honors Housing**

Once a housing contract has been issued, Honors students are eligible to apply for Honors Housing. Honors Housing is an option for students who are excited about learning, who love meeting new people, and who know they can learn as much from each other as from their professors. Honors and the Residence Halls offer an Honors College Living Learning Community; it is open to all first-year Honors College students but with a limited number of beds it is first come, first-served. For more information please contact University Housing at (414) 229-4065.
INTERACTION WITH HONORS COLLEGE FACULTY

Honors faculty are committed not only to teaching, but also to interacting with students in and out of the classroom. The small size of Honors classes encourages this relationship. Consequently, Honors faculty are an excellent source of advice, help, and recommendations for students pursuing scholarships, study abroad, and other academic opportunities.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Honors College offers several scholarship opportunities, including Ziegler Family Scholarships, Ed and Diane Zore Scholarships, Robert W. Baird Scholarships, Lawrence Baldassaro Scholarships, Study Abroad Scholarships, and the KleinOsowski Scholarship.

There are also annual awards such as the Herman Weil Senior Thesis Award that funds research expenses associated with completion of a Senior Honors Thesis and the Honors College Essay Competition that offers cash prizes to Honors students who submit outstanding essays. The competition is open to freshmen and upper-level students alike.

HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Honors College Advisory Committee sets Honors policy, approves new Honors seminars, and oversees Honors College administration. Four Honors juniors or seniors are selected to serve on the Committee for one-year terms. Interested students should contact the Director or Assistant Director.
STUDYING ABROAD

Studying abroad is an academically challenging and enjoyable way to earn Honors credits. It can enrich undergraduate education, improve chances for future opportunities, develop language skills, and provide a deeper understanding of global issues.

Honors students have studied at universities in Egypt, Russia, France, Germany, England, Scotland, Italy, Kenya, Brazil, Mexico, Senegal, and the Dominican Republic. To earn Honors credit while studying abroad, students must meet with an Honors College advisor before leaving the United States.

HONOR SOCIETIES

Because of their outstanding academic records, many Honors students are invited to join Honor societies. While Honor societies are not affiliated directly with the Honors College, the Honors staff can provide information about many societies—Phi Eta Sigma, Mortar Board, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Golden Key, to name a few—to help students decide which would be most beneficial for them. Students should refer to the Honors College web page for more information.
The Honors College does its best to keep students up to date on opportunities, events, and course offerings. It is important that you notify the Honors College office of any changes in your name, address, and telephone number, as we do not automatically receive this information from the University. This will ensure that you receive Honors College information promptly.

**HONORS COLLEGE COURSE BOOK**

Each semester, near the time that the UWM Schedule of Classes is posted online, the Honors Course Description Book is also available online. The course booklet includes detailed information on Honors courses offered that semester. Course descriptions include reading lists and course requirements so you know what to expect from each course. Important information about priority registration is also provided in the beginning of each book.

**HONORS COLLEGE ON THE WEB**

The Honors College’s Web address is: [honors.uwm.edu](http://honors.uwm.edu)

On the Honors College site, students can find online versions of this handbook, the Senior Thesis and Senior Project handbooks, and a current Honors Course Description Book. Also posted is a directory of Honors faculty and staff, information on the Honors College Student Association, Honors activities, and Independent Study and Research options.

You can also find us on Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Milwaukee-WI/University-of-Wisconsin-Milwaukee-Honors-College/59588487772](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Milwaukee-WI/University-of-Wisconsin-Milwaukee-Honors-College/59588487772)
HONORS COLLEGE LISTSERV

Honors students will receive timely information via e-mail on the Honors College listserv. The listserv provides information on events, opportunities, scholarships, and important dates. Honors students are automatically subscribed to the listserv. If you use an alternate e-mail address, be sure to also check your UWM e-mail daily to ensure that you receive all pertinent information from the Honors College and the University at large. Please note that, due to space limitations and filtering, forwarding your UWM e-mail to another e-mail address is discouraged.
The Honors College staff provides accessible, personalized advising to students in the College. At any time, you may stop in or make an appointment with the Director, Assistant Director, or academic advisors to discuss your academic plans. Our advisors can help you with course selection, study abroad opportunities, independent study, scholarships, graduate or professional school applications, or any other academic matter.

**FRESHMAN ADVISING**

All freshmen are required to meet with an Honors advisor before registering for classes to discuss their schedules, progress, and Honors options. It is very important for freshmen to meet with their school/college advisor prior to meeting with an Honors advisor, as their general advisor will provide planning documents that are helpful to determine how Honors courses work within the students’ curriculum.

**SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR REVIEW**

Honors students are invited to meet with an Honors advisor during their sophomore and junior years to discuss their academic progress and plans. During these meetings, students can discuss scholarship opportunities; options for earning Honors credit, such as study abroad, independent study or research, Senior Thesis or Project; admission to graduate or professional school; and career goals.

**SENIOR EXIT INTERVIEW**

Seniors meet with the Assistant Director to ensure that they have met Honors graduation requirements and to discuss graduate school and career plans.
HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ADVISING

The Honors College provides personal scholarship advising for students, and the Honors office houses scholarship information. Students can get help in identifying scholarships, as well as preparing essays and personal statements. This support has helped many Honors students win local scholarships, as well as prestigious national awards.

HONORS COLLEGE WRITING SPECIALIST

The Honors College Writing Specialist, Lydia Equitz, is available by appointment to help students plan, write, and revise essays. She also schedules periodic writing workshops which give students the opportunity to improve their writing skills through revision. Students can make appointments to meet with Lydia by signing up on the clipboard outside her office in Honors House, Room 189.

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Honors College Student Association (HCSA), the official student group for Honors students, offers the opportunity to get more involved with the Honors College, UWM, and the Milwaukee community. Student members of the HCSA organize many events and programs, including social events and service activities. For more information contact: hcsa-officers@uwm.edu

HONORS COLLEGE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

New students entering the Honors College in fall are required to attend the Honors College Orientation, held shortly before the fall semester begins. The orientation program gives students the opportunity to meet other new Honors College students, as well as Honors College faculty, staff, and the officers of the Honors College Student Association, in an informal and informative atmosphere.
Registering for Honors Courses

Honors students should meet with an Honors College advisor each semester about their progress toward satisfying Honors graduation requirements, as well as important details about Priority Registration. This appointment should take place after meeting with their school/college advisor, both of which should be scheduled early in the semester in order to ensure both appointments occur before Priority Registration begins. Full-time students should try to register for one or more Honors courses each semester; part-time students, one Honors course every other semester.

Priority Registration

Honors students are given priority registration for fall and spring semesters to ensure that they can complete their Honors requirements along with those of their major. Before fall or spring registration begins, students should check on PAWS to find out the priority registration time assigned for that semester. Students should be sure to take advantage of the early assigned time!

If you do not get the Honors course of your choice you have the option of placing yourself on a wait list via PAWS. Students are wait listed on a first come/first serve basis, and the Department of Admissions and Recruitment will send you an e-mail notifying you of your status. More details on the wait list procedure can be found at: waitlist.uwm.edu.

For more information about priority registration, please see the instructions in the front of the Honors College Course Description Book, which is available online every semester.

Note: Announcements of new sections and class space are made through the Honors listserv. Therefore, be sure to log in to your UWM e-mail account regularly to avoid missing important information.
Courses and Curriculum

**INTRODUCTORY HONORS SEMINARS**

**Honors 200** (The Shaping of the Modern Mind; 3H cr): Introductory course required of all students entering the Honors College. We recommend that freshmen repeat Honors 200 once with a change in topic; however, they may only enroll in one section per semester. Honors 200 may not be repeated after earning Honors credits at the 300 level or higher.

**Math 221** (Honors Calculus I; 5 cr): A high Math Placement Test score and permission of either the Honors director or the Math Department are required to enroll in Honors Calculus I. This course can be taken concurrently with Honors 200. **Students will receive 5 Honors credits for completion of Math 221.**

**Math 222** (Honors Calculus II; 5 cr): Open only to students who have successfully completed Math 221, Honors Calculus I. This course can be taken concurrently with Honors 200. **Students will receive 1 Honors credit for completion of Math 222.**

To satisfy graduation requirements in the Honors College you must complete 21 credits in courses approved for Honors credit, as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Honors 200</th>
<th>Upper-level Honors seminars</th>
<th>Non-Seminar Options</th>
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<tr>
<td>Honors 200</td>
<td>3 to 6 credits</td>
<td>at least 9 credits</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>up to 9 credits</td>
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Honors courses cannot be audited or taken with the credit/no credit option. **Students must earn at least a B- in an Honors course to earn Honors credit.** You can earn Honors credits by enrolling in upper-level seminars, independent study, Research in Honors, study abroad, a graduate seminar (numbered 700 or above) while an undergraduate, or Senior thesis/project.
UPPER-LEVEL HONORS SEMINARS

Departmental Honors Seminars (3H cr): Offered through departments, these Honors courses are non-technical, general liberal arts seminars, which may be repeated with a change in topic to a maximum of 9H cr (excluding Honors 380, which may only be repeated once with a change in topic for a total of 6H cr). Honors College students are eligible to enroll in these courses once they successfully complete Honors 200 and achieve sophomore standing. Here is a sampling:

**ARTS (A)**
- Honors 380

**HUMANITIES (HU)**
- Art History 381
- Comparative Literature 381
- English 685
- French 383
- History 398
- Honors 350
- Philosophy 381

**NATURAL SCIENCES (NS)**
- Biological Sciences 380
- Honors 352
- Math 381
- Physics 380

**SOCIAL SCIENCES (SS)**
- Anthropology 381
- Geography 381
- History 399
- Honors 351
- Nursing 380
- Political Science 380
- Psychology 380

**GER AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Most Honors courses may be used to satisfy General Education Requirements (GER). All Honors 200 courses count toward the humanities GER.

**CREDIT IN THE MAJOR**

Most departmental Honors seminars count toward the major in their respective departments, but students should contact the department for approval. Honors Tutorial (Honors 685), Research in Honors (Honors 686), Senior Honors Project (Honors 687), and Senior Honors Thesis (Honors 689) may be counted toward the major with the permission of the department concerned.
INDEPENDENT STUDY, RESEARCH, AND OTHER OPTIONS

Students must contact the Honors College office before registering for any of the following courses. Special registration procedures apply.

Advanced Independent Study (3H cr): Independent study courses offered through departments. Course numbers vary. Prerequisite: junior standing

Honors 685 (Honors Tutorial; 3H cr): An independent study course for students who cannot arrange independent study through one of the departments. Prerequisite: junior standing.

Honors 686 (Research in Honors; 3H or 6H cr): Students assist a faculty member in his/her research and then design and complete an original and major research project under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Students who complete 6 cr are awarded “Honors with Distinction” on their transcripts. Prerequisite: junior standing and 9H credits.

*Honors 687 (Senior Honors Project; 3H cr; retakable to a max of 6H cr): The Senior Honors Project is intended for students in majors in which an Honors Thesis is not appropriate. It consists of a performance, exhibit, musical composition, or technical/professional project completed under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Students who complete 6H cr are awarded “Honors with Distinction” on their transcripts. Prerequisite: senior standing.

*Honors 689 (Senior Honors Thesis; 6H cr over two semesters): The Senior Honors Thesis allows students the opportunity to write an extended paper (usually 50-75 pages) reflecting independent research conducted in some aspect of their major field of study under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Students who complete the thesis are awarded “Honors with Thesis” on their transcripts. Prerequisite: senior standing.

*Students may not do both a Senior Thesis and a Senior Project.

Graduate Courses: Qualifying seniors may take courses at the 700-level or above to fulfill Honors College graduation requirements. Permission must be obtained from the instructor, the department chair, and the Honors College Director.

Honors Work at Other Universities (maximum of 9H cr): Transfer students who have participated in an Honors College at their previous school may be eligible for up to 9H credit. See the Honors College Director.

Study Abroad: Any approved study abroad program may be eligible. However, you must meet with an Honors advisor prior to studying abroad in order to establish eligibility, and arrange for Honors credit.
Honors College Staff

The Honors College office, Honors House 154, is open Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. All Honors faculty and staff can be reached at (414) 229-4658.

The Honors staff is:

- Charles Schuster, Director     Honors House 146
- Robin Weigert, Assistant Director    Honors House 120
- Laura Blaska, Student Services Coordinator   Honors House 150
- Shannon M. Byrne Irwin, Student Services Coordinator Honors House 151
- Kate Coffaro, Senior Student Services Coordinator Honors House 185
- Laura Murphy, Program Assistant    Honors House 154
- Lydia Equitz, Writing Specialist and Senior Lecturer Honors House 189
- Tyson Hausdoerffer, Sr. Project Liaison and Lecturer Honors House 158
- Alan Singer, Senior Honors College Lecturer Honors House 138
- David Southward, Sr. Thesis Liaison and Senior Lecturer Honors House 166A

Honors College Student Centers     Honors House 105/169
Honors College Seminar Rooms     Honors House 155/180
                                  190/195
Honors College Library Study Room    Library W204

Revised for
Spring 2013