Honors College Student Handbook

Director's Welcome

Congratulations and welcome to the Honors College at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee! You are joining a community of students and teachers devoted to excellence in learning that has operated at UWM for more than half a century, adding your own story to that legacy.

The College offers small classes and interactive learning environments, with high standards for faculty and students. We emphasize writing, thinking, and discussing in our seminars and non-seminar options: theses, projects, and research opportunities. Our student-centered curriculum is enhanced by a Living and Learning Community in one of the residence halls, by study abroad opportunities, and by social events throughout the year, as well as opportunities to interact with faculty drawn from all across the university in addition to our own permanent faculty members.

An Honors education at UWM means that you have the benefits of a small, personalized liberal arts college with access to world-class research and scholarship, giving you tools for success here, in graduate school, and in your lives beyond your time at the university. We're proud of what we offer, and we're proud to welcome you to our college.

It is a joy to work with Honors students, and I hope that you will find the same joy working with each other, with the faculty, and with your advisors in Honors House. Please drop by my office and never hesitate to contact me or your Honors advisor if you have any questions.

Dr. Peter Sands
Honors College Director

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Honors College Values

Academic Integrity

Curiosity

Collaborative Thinking

Creativity

Passion for Learning

The UWM Honors College Vision

A site of undergraduate excellence, the UWM Honors College promotes both a caring community and academic achievement with a particular emphasis on scholarly inquiry, critical thinking, effective reading, writing, and speaking, and individual achievement. Open to qualified undergraduates from across the university, the Honors College offers its students individualized attention in class, in advising sessions, and throughout their years of study. Upon graduation, Honors College students have completed a curriculum set within a liberal arts framework that extends from the arts and humanities to the social and natural sciences. Honors seminars provide a forum for discussion as well as intensive practice in extended analysis, close reading, and effective writing and speaking. In addition to seminars, the UWM Honors College encourages writing a Senior Thesis, completing a Senior Project, conducting faculty-sponsored Research in Honors, Independent Study, and Study Abroad. Our goal is to prepare Honors students for success beyond graduation, whatever their chosen field.

The UWM Honors College History and Present

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Honors College has been an important part of UWM since it was founded in 1960 by Dr. Herman Weil, Professor of Psychology. Set within the university's large, urban setting, the Honors College offers all of the benefits of a small liberal arts college, in tandem with the benefits of 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 lead 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.

The Honors College helps students develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed after college, whether in the professional world or in post-graduate education.

Admission Requirements

Students pursuing their first undergraduate degree may join the Honors College as freshmen, continuing UWM, or transfer students. High school students admitted to UWM are automatically considered for the Honors College based upon a holistic approach comprised of their UWM application materials. Continuing UWM and transfer students must have a cumulative GPA appropriate for their year in school (see below) and have met the University English requirement by completing ENG 101 & 102, with a C or better, or by testing out of the English composition requirement during placement testing. All students new to the Honors College must meet with an Honors advisor to discuss how Honors College courses are integrated into their course of study.

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:

Freshmen (after first semester)	3.0
Sophomores	3.3
Juniors	3.4
Seniors/to graduate with an Honors degree	3.5

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

C. Students who do not take Honors courses for two consecutive semesters will be considered "inactive" and may be dropped from the Honors College unless approved in advance by an Honors College advisor.

Graduating with an Honors Degree

Students who complete 21 Honors College credits, and achieve a 3.5 cumulative GPA, or higher, receive the Honors College Degree—the highest undergraduate degree attainable at UWM. In addition, students who earn six credits over two semesters, by completing a Senior Honors Thesis, Senior Honors Project, or Research in Honors, receive a special designation of "Honors College Degree with Distinction" on their transcript. Graduating with an Honors College Degree provides convincing evidence of outstanding academic achievement, a valuable accomplishment students can highlight on resumes and graduate, law, and medical school applications.

Honors College Requirements

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

Honors 200	**3 to 6 credits**
Upper-level Honors seminars	**at least 9 credits**
Non-Seminar Options	**up to 9 credits**

Honors courses cannot be audited or taken with the credit/no credit option. Students must earn at least a B- in any Honors seminar or non-seminar to earn Honors credit. Non-Seminar options include: Senior Honors Thesis, Senior Honors Project, Research in Honors, study abroad, Alternative Honors Credit Proposal, Honors Tutorial, independent study, or completion of graduate level credit (while an undergraduate).

Enrollment in additional credits beyond the 21 required for the Honors Degree is permitted on a space available basis.

Honors 200 (The Shaping of the Modern Mind; 3H cr): The introductory course required of all students entering the Honors College. We recommend that students 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.

Upper-Level Honors Seminars

Departmental Honors Seminars (3H cr): Offered by departments across campus, 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 after 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
Chemistry 381
Geological Sciences 381
Honors 352
Math 381
Physics 380

SOCIAL SCIENCES (SS)
Anthropology 381
Geography 381
History 399
Honors 351
Nursing 380
Political Science 380
Psychology 380
Women's and Gender Studies 380

****NOTE: These classes are not specific to students in these majors. All upper-level Honors courses are open to all upper-level Honors students****

Credit in the Major

Many departmental Honors seminars count toward the major in their respective departments, but students are required to contact the department for approval. Research in Honors (Honors 686), Senior Honors Project (Honors 687), Senior Honors Thesis (Honors 689), Independent Study, and Study Abroad may also count toward the major with the permission of the department. In advance of pursuing an Honors College non-seminar option, students should discuss the options with both their school/college academic advisor, as well as an Honors advisor.

Non Seminar Options

Open to seniors only:

Senior Honors Thesis (Honors 689): An extended paper (typically 50-75 pages) written over two semesters reflecting independent research conducted in some aspect of a student's major/field of study under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Contact: Dr. David Southward

Senior Honors Project (Honors 687): A work of art, music, technology or design created over one or two semesters and done under faculty supervision and representing a superior level of accomplishment. Contact: Dr. Peter Sands

Alternative Honors Credit Proposal: Many majors require a final capstone or project. With permission from both the degree-granting college and Honors College Director, students may add an honors component to this final capstone or project that is already built into their curriculum. Contact: Dr. Peter Sands

Graduate Course: Graduate level courses completed with a B- or better may be counted toward the Honors College graduation requirements. This option normally is open only to seniors in the program who meet the necessary prerequisites. Permission for an Honors student to take a graduate course must be obtained from the instructor of the course, the chairperson of the department or school/college designee in which the course is taught, and the Honors College director. Contact: Honors Advisor

Open to juniors and seniors:

Research in Honors (Honors 686): Assist a faculty member with current research or design and complete an original experiment or data-analysis under the supervisor of a faculty advisor. Research may be conducted over one or two semesters. Contact: Dr. Peter Sands

Honors Tutorial/Independent Study: A self-designed course of reading and writing taken over one semester. Students may register for this under a departmental independent study or under Honors 685. Contact: Dr. Peter Sands

Open to all students:

Experiential Learning (Honors 684): Take advantage of hands-on learning opportunities offered through the Honors College. Contact: Honors Advisor

Study Abroad: Earn credit for courses taken abroad. Students may earn 3 credits per term through study abroad and must complete both a pre- and post-study abroad appointment with an advisor. Contact: Honors Advisor

Non Seminar Options Continued

Recommended Timeline for NON-SEMINAR Options

Freshman Year								
Sophomore Year								
Junior Year								
Senior Year								
	Identify which Non-Seminar option you are interested in completing	Meet with advisors to discuss	Meet with Dr. Sands or Dr. Southward	Identify a faculty supervisor from your home department	Prepare and submit draft proposal	After approval, complete and turn in signature form	Register for the class	Complete your work

Proposal drafts are due one full semester in advance.
Start planning today!
April 1st for Fall Semester & November 1st for Spring Semester

Additional Honors Credit Options

Honors 199 (English 102 + Honors 199; 4H cr): Honors students concurrently enrolled in English 102 are eligible for this 1-credit collaborative independent study course. Honors 199 complements English 102 with orientation to Honors coursework and expectations in a writing-intensive setting. If students earn a C or better in English 102 and B- or better in Honors 199, all four credits will count toward the Honors College Degree.

Math 221 (Honors Calculus I; 5H cr): A high Math Placement Test score is 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; 5H cr): Open only to students who have successfully completed Math 221, Honors Calculus I or those who have earned a B or better in Math 232. This course can be taken concurrently with Honors 200. **Students will receive 1 Honors credit for completion of Math 222.**

Registration: Where to Start?

Honors students should meet with an Honors College advisor each semester to discuss their progress toward the Honors College graduation requirements, as well as important details about Priority Registration. Please schedule this appointment to take place after you have met with your school/college academic advisor. Schedule both meetings early in the semester to ensure that both take place before Priority Registration**. NOTE: It is mandatory for Honors students to meet with an Honors advisor each of their first four semesters in the program. Students will see a hold on their PAWS account, restricting course registration until that requirement is met each term.**

Full-time students should try to register for at least one Honors course each semester; part-time students should plan for one Honors course every other semester.

Students should enroll in no more than six (6) Honors credits per semester. Additional credits require written consent from the Director.

Priority Registration

Honors students are offered Priority Registration to ensure they can complete their Honors requirements along with those of their major. Before registration begins, students should check their PAWS account to confirm 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 served basis, and the Registrar's Office will send you an e-mail notifying you of your status. It is also displayed on the list view of the student class schedule in PAWS. 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.

Announcements of new Honors sections and class space are made via e-mail. **Be sure to log in to your UWM e-mail account regularly to avoid missing important information.**

Advising

The Honors College staff provides accessible, personalized advising to Honors students. Our advisors are available to help you with Honors course selection, study abroad opportunities, scholarships, graduate or professional school applications, or any other academic matter. Honors advisors use a holistic advising approach while focusing on academic and student development. You may also make an appointment with the Director or Associate Director to discuss your academic plans.

Types of Advising

- **Freshman Advising**
- **Sophomore/Junior Advising**
- **Senior Reflection Advising**
- **Non-Seminar Options Advising**

Responsibilities and Expectations

Student

- Clarify and describe your goals, attitudes, interests, and abilities.
- Become knowledgeable about campus and Honors College policies and procedures.
- Schedule advising meetings well in advance and inform your advisor(s) if you are unable to attend.
- Be prepared and on time for advising appointments.
- Take responsibility for your own academic and personal decisions.

Advisor

- Develop a relationship with each student.
- Know policies, procedures, and curriculum while also being able to seek information when needed.
- Monitor progress and openly discuss various student options.
- Be knowledgeable regarding resources on campus for students.
- Keep personal and sensitive information confidential.
- Have an open-door policy and drop-in availability.

Additional Honors College Resources

Writing Specialist

The Honors College Writing Specialist, Dr. Steven Flores helps students plan, draft, and revise their writing projects of all genres and purposes. Whether they're working on a class assignment, an application essay, a creative piece, or a combination, Steven is available for consultation. He also holds periodic standalone writing workshops that explore and practice various writing tools. Students can make appointments for virtual or in-person meetings with Steven by using Navigate.

Scholarships

The Honors College offers several scholarship opportunities through the Panther Scholarship Portal (uwm.academicworks.com). The Portal allows students to complete both a general application and a conditional application(s) such as the Honors College application. Other conditional applications may be available based on a students' profile, school/college, major, etc. Once the application(s) are submitted, students are auto matched to scholarships both inside and outside of the UWM community. The Panther Scholarship Portal also houses apply-to opportunities.

The Honors College application opens in the Panther Scholarship Portal in October and has a deadline in December each year. These scholarships are applied to the following summer and/or academic year. There is usually a special deadline in mid-October for UWinteriM and spring study abroad funds. Specific deadlines vary each year. Watch the weekly Honors College announcements for specific dates.

The Honors College conditional application asks students to answer a few open-ended questions about their career aspirations, experience in the Honors College, desire to study abroad (if applicable), and financial need (if applicable). Students are also asked to upload a copy of their resume and transcript. Lastly, students will include the name and email of an Honors College faculty member for a letter of recommendation.

The Honors College provides several information sessions throughout the academic year to help students prepare their application material. Personal scholarship advising is also available for students. Some students also meet with Honors College writing specialist for assistance.

We encourage students to check their UWM email and log into the Portal regularly for updates about scholarship opportunities and deadlines.

Honors on the Web

Honors College Listserv: Honors students will receive a weekly e-mail from the Honors College that provides information on events, opportunities, scholarships, and important dates, and deadlines. 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 strongly discouraged.

Honors College Website: uwm.edu/honors - The Honors College website is a great resource for information about the Honors College. Students will find online versions of this handbook, non-seminar information, and a current Honors Course Description Book. You will also find a directory of Honors faculty and staff, as well as information regarding Honors activities.

Join us on Social Media:

https://www.facebook.com/UWMHonorsCollege

uwmhnrs

Get Involved!

Student Organizations

The Honors College is home to a number of student-created and student-led organizations such as: *The Aggregate*, HARPY (The Honors Association for Research and Publication), Creative Writing Club, Honors Drama Club, and The Flood. It is easy to get involved. Watch your weekly email announcements for additional details.

Events

Students are invited to events throughout the school year, providing a great opportunity to socialize, network and build community. Watch your weekly email announcements for additional details and visit the student groups page here.

Other Opportunities

Alternative Spring Break – Each spring, 15-20 Honors students and two faculty members travel to New Orleans to volunteer and explore the city. Watch for announcements or contact Dr. Schneider if you are interested in learning more.

Study Abroad – Students may earn Honors College credit for completing any credit bearing study abroad trip, but they also have the option to study abroad with the Honors College. We offer two trips, Royals and Rebels in London and Germany Honors: Travel Writing, Modernist Fiction, and Contemporary Germany
These trips are generally planned for alternating summers.

Honors House Living and Learning Community (LLC) – Offers a unique experience for Honors students choosing to live in the residence halls. The Honors House LLC allows both incoming and returning students to live together in community. The goal of the community is to participate in Honors College activities; foster friendship, mentoring, and support among Honors College students, faculty, and advisors; introduce students to critical and creative thinking and writing and enable students to thrive within the Honors College.