



# 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 over sixty years, 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 Sandburg Residence Hall, by study abroad opportunities, and by social events throughout the year, as well as opportunities to interact with faculty drawn from 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 the 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

|                                        |            |
|----------------------------------------|------------|
| Director's Welcome                     | p. 2       |
| Table of Contents                      | p. 3       |
| Admission Requirements and Curriculum  | p. 4 - 11  |
| Registration                           | p. 12      |
| Advising                               | p. 13      |
| Additional Honors Resources            | p. 14      |
| Honors Scholarships                    | p. 14 - 15 |
| Web, Email, and Social Media           | p. 16      |
| Student Orgs, Events and Opportunities | p. 17      |

## **Admission Requirements**

Students pursuing their first bachelor's degree can join the Honors College as first-year, continuing, or transfer students. First-year students are admitted based upon a holistic review of their UWM application and high school record. First-year students are automatically considered once they have been admitted to UWM. Selected students are notified by mail.

Incoming first-year students admitted through the Direct Admit Wisconsin or Direct Admit Milwaukee initiative are encouraged to share more information through the prospective student form on the admission section of the Honors College website.

Continuing UWM and transfer students should have a cumulative GPA equivalent to their academic standing for their year in school (see below). Interested continuing and transfer students should contact the Honors College to schedule an appointment with an Honors advisor to discuss how the curriculum can be integrated into their academic plans. Students can also indicate their interest in joining the Honors College by completing the [interest form](#) available on the Honors College website or by contacting the Honors College Enrollment Coordinator.

## **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 cumulative grade point averages for work done at UWM by the beginning of their year in school\*:

|                                        |     |
|----------------------------------------|-----|
| First-year (after first semester)..... | 3.0 |
| Rising second-year.....                | 3.3 |
| Rising third-year.....                 | 3.4 |
| Rising fourth-year and beyond.....     | 3.5 |

\*Students may be considered for a GPA Warning (and not dropped from the Honors College) if they are mathematically able to reach their above benchmark within a semester or have communicated with an Honors advisor that they plan to repeat a course or take other action that may impact their GPA.

**B.** Students must complete a 200-level honors course within their first two semesters enrolled in the Honors College.

**C.** Unless planned with an Honors College advisor, students who do not take Honors courses for two consecutive semesters will be considered “inactive” and may be dropped from the Honors College.

## **Graduating with an Honors Degree**

The Honors College Degree requires 21 Honors credits and a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average at graduation. All Honors credits count toward the total credits required for graduation.

Students who plan to graduate "Honors College Degree with Distinction" need to successfully complete one of the following courses for two consecutive semesters, to a total of six credits: HONORS 686 Research in Honors, HONORS 687 Senior Honors Project, or HONORS 689 Senior Honors Thesis.

Graduating with an Honors College Degree provides convincing evidence of outstanding academic achievement, a valuable accomplishment students can note on resumes and graduate school applications. The designation of Honors College Degree or Honors College Degree with Distinction will be listed on both the diploma and final transcript.

## **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-level.....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 options. Students must earn at least a B- or better in an Honors course to earn Honors credit.**

**Honors 200-level courses (3H cr ):** These are introductory courses of all students entering the Honors College. Students may take up to 6 credits of Honors 200-level coursework with a change in topic; however, they may only enroll in one section per semester. Honors 200-level courses may not be taken after earning Honors credits at the 300-level or higher.

## **Upper-Level Honors Seminars**

The upper-level Honors course requirement can be completed by taking “HON” honors seminars or departmental honors seminars. Any upper-level honors seminar may be repeated with a change in topic to a maximum of 9H cr. All Honors College students are eligible to enroll in these courses after successfully completing any Honors 200-level course. All honors seminars are open to honors students from all majors; prerequisite knowledge of the subject is not required.

## **CGER & Honors**

In addition to counting for Honors credit, most Honors seminars also meet UWM Core General Education Requirements (CGER). Here is a sampling of our various seminar numbers that meet each CGER (keep in mind that this list is always growing).

### **Humanities & Arts**

Arabic 381

Art History 381

CompLit 381

English 685

French 383

History 398

Honors 200

Honors 350

Honors 380

Philos 381

WLC 381

### **Social & Behavioral Science**

Economics 381

Geog 381

Global 381

History 399

Honors 201

Honors 351

Nursing 380

Pol Sci 380

Sociol 380

**Communication & Literacy**

Honors 202

**Natural Science & Wellness**

Bio Sci 380

Chem 381

Freshwater Sci 381

Geo Sci 381

Honors 203

Honors 352

Math 381

Nursing 381

**Civics & Perspectives**

History 382

Honors 204

Honors 370

Honors 353

**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 8=689), Independent Study, Graduate Credit, and Study Abroad may also count toward the major with 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**

**Senior Honors Thesis (Honors 689):** An extended paper (typically 50-75 pages) written over two semesters reflecting independent research conducted in some aspects of a student's major/field of study under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Recommended to students with a minimum of junior standing and nine completed Honors credits. Contact: Dr. Peter Sands

**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. Recommended to students with a minimum of junior standing and nine completed Honors credits. Contact: Dr. Peter Sands

**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. Recommended to students with a minimum of junior standing and nine completed Honors credits. 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/project or any 300+ level course that is already built into their curriculum. Contact: Dr. Peter Sands

**Graduate Course:** Undergraduate students may earn up to 3 credits in graduate courses. Permission must be obtained from the instructor, department chair, Dean of the appropriate school/college, and Honors College Director. Contact: Honors Advisor

**Experiential Learning (Honors 684):** Students can participate in experiences such as the Community Embedded Experiential Learning program, the Wisconsin Empathy Project, or Alternative Spring Break for Honors credits. Contact: Honors Advisor

### **Non-Seminar Options Continued**

**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

**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

### 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 | 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 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall Semester & November 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Semester**

### **Additional Honors Credit Options**

**Math 221** (Honors Calculus I; 5H cr): Students must meet math placement requirements to enroll in Honors Calculus I. This course can be taken concurrently with a 200-level Honors course.

**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 a 200-level Honors course.

**Students will receive 1 Honors credit for completion of Math 222.**

\*Math 221 and 222 are subject to Math Department instructor availability and may not be offered every academic year.

## **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. We recommend that you 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.

Students may only take three (3) Honors credits in their first semester in the Honors College. After that students may enroll in no more than six (6) Honors credits per semester. Additional credits require written consent from the Director. Students may complete credits beyond the 21-credit degree if space is available.

## **Priority Registration**

Priority registration gives Honors students first access to enrollment each semester — a real advantage for completing course requirements, balancing major and minor requirements, and working around other commitments like jobs, student organizations, and commuting. Before registration opens, check your PAWS account to confirm your priority registration time for the semester, and be sure to take advantage of it!

If your first choice of an upper-level Honors course isn't available, you can add yourself to the waitlist through PAWS (recommended) or Stellic. Waitlists are handled on a first-come, first-served basis, and the Registrar's Office will email you with updates on your status (it's also shown in the list view of your class schedule in PAWS). For more on how the waitlist works, visit the UWM Registrar's website or ask an Honors advisor for help.

For additional details related to priority registration, please visit the instructions in the front of the Honors College Course Description Book, available at [uwm.edu/honors](http://uwm.edu/honors) each 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 Advisors provide accessible, personalized support 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. Unlike your school/college advisor, you are not assigned to an individual Honors College academic advisor. Rather, you can meet with any Honors College advisor based on preference, schedule, etc. You may also make an appointment with the Director or Associate Director of the Honors College to discuss your academic plans.

## **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 relationships 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, is available by appointment to help students plan, write, and revise essays. He also schedules periodic writing workshops. Students can make an appointment to meet with Steven via Navigate or by emailing.

## **Scholarships**

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

The Honors College has two application cycles. Students should plan to apply by October to be considered for UWinterIM and spring study abroad scholarships and by late early- to mid-December to be considered for both summer and fall study abroad scholarships, as well as scholarships for the upcoming academic year. Specific deadlines vary each year and are announced via the Honors College weekly email.

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 a faculty member (students are strongly recommended to select an Honors course instructor) for a letter of

recommendation. We suggest talking with your faculty member *before* listing their name in the application.

The Honors College provides 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 an academic advisor or with the Honors College writing specialist for assistance.

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

## **Communication**

**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](http://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:**



[uwmhhrs](https://www.instagram.com/uwmhhrs)



<https://www.facebook.com/UWMHonorsCollege>

# 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 For People & Planet. 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.

## **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 “Self, City, Stranger in Ancient & Contemporary Greece.” 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.