

# Honors

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## *Director*

John Dilyard, Ph.D.

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## Program Mission

The Honors Program's mission is to form a community of active, life-long learners who will become adept at functioning in a complex, increasingly interconnected world. This is accomplished through interdisciplinary courses anchored in the liberal arts. The Program strengthens its students intellectually by challenging them academically, encouraging their intellectual curiosity, and honing their research, writing, critical thinking and speaking skills. Keeping with the College's Franciscan roots, Honors students constantly are encouraged to embrace the key Franciscan values of care of creation, compassion, humility and service to others. By offering courses in a wide variety of disciplines, the Program enhances the academic experience of every major.

## Goals and Objectives

- Read, analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- Actively engage in seminar discussions.
- Plan, organize and make oral presentations.
- Write essays and reports that are well-conceived, well-organized and well written.
- Take advantage of and participate in the cultural resources found in the metropolitan area.
- Become aware of the interconnectedness of knowledge.
- Conduct original research and explore perspectives on existing theories, concepts and ideas.

The Honors program provides students the opportunity to study and investigate areas of interdisciplinary concern and personal interest. The Program requires the student to enroll in and complete eight three-credit Honors courses, beginning with a year-long freshman seminar and ending in a year-long senior thesis. The freshman seminars are focused around a timely theme chosen by the Honors Director. The topic of the Honors Thesis is chosen by the individual Honors student and requires

the student to engage in in-depth research, guided by a mentor chosen by the student, culminating in a polished, thoroughly documented research paper. Students have the opportunity to present their research at an annual Honors Symposium. Each thesis is carefully monitored by the mentor and is critically examined by a designated reader from the Honors Council.

Independent research and self-motivated study are combined in Honors seminars. Brief essays, oral presentations, and longer research projects form the basis for grades in the seminars. Formal testing is neither used, nor permitted. Field trips are encouraged, and attendance at or participation in cultural and social activities at the College are expected, as is a service component.

The non-freshman Honors courses that are offered each semester are selected from a large and constantly growing collection of courses. This course catalog includes all active Honors courses, but Honors students should check with the Program Director's office to learn about new courses that will be offered. Decisions about which Honors courses are offered are made each semester and will appear on WebAdvisor during registration periods. Honors students have priority registration and are eligible to register for courses on the first day of registration.

Membership in the Honors program is limited. Qualified admitted freshmen are invited into the program based on a combination of test scores and high school performance.

Transfer students, second semester freshman and, at times, sophomores who demonstrate academic talent and interest in the Honors Program may also be invited into the Program. Once in the Program, Honors students are required to maintain at least a 3.50 grade point average and show progress toward meeting their Honors course requirements.

All students interested in additional information about the Honors program should contact the Director.

## Program Requirements

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
HON 5101 Honors Freshman Seminar I .....	3	Acceptance into the Honors program	
HON 5102 Honors Freshman Seminar II .....	3	HON 5101 or Honors Director's approval	
Select <b>FOUR</b> Honors courses <sup>1</sup> .....	12	Various—see course listings	
HON 5997 Honors Thesis .....	3	Honors Director's approval	
HON 5998 Honors Thesis .....	3	Honors Director's approval	
Total credits required .....	24		

<sup>1</sup>Honors courses are identified by course numbers 5000 through 5998 or by the notation of Honors (or "HON") in the course title. Students interested in completing the Honors curriculum are encouraged to meet with the Honors Director regularly for assistance in identifying appropriate courses and planning their academic programs, regardless of major.

