Honors Program

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http://www.slu.edu/x7142.xml

The Honors Program is a university-wide program administered through the Vice President’s Office with a curriculum that meets the needs of students from all majors. Students in the Honors Program major in an academic discipline in addition to completing the Honors Program curriculum. The Honors Program curriculum is designed to allow students to work closely with their advisor to create a unique course of study focused on their academic interests. This program for academically talented students encourages personal contact with faculty members and interaction among Honors students. The Honors Program is committed to enriching students’ intellectual experience by providing Honors sections of many core courses, innovative upper-level seminars, and experiential learning opportunities such as internships, study abroad, and independent study.

Eligibility
Acceptance into the Program is determined by previous academic performance, achievement in college entrance examinations, and evidence of interest in the Program. Transfer students or current students who demonstrate academic strengths and develop an interest in the Honors Program during the first year may also be admitted.

Program Summary
Students must complete a minimum of twenty-four hours of Honors credit, which is equivalent to eight classes. Students are encouraged to take at least one Honors course per semester. Students must complete at least twelve units of the twenty-four with upper-level course work (300-400 level). There is no minimum requirement for lower-level coursework (100-200 level). Students must earn a B or better in the course to earn Honors credit.

Students must maintain a 3.5 minimum grade point average and go no longer than one semester without earning Honors credit to remain in good standing with the Program. Student progress is reviewed every semester and continuance in the Program is either recommended or discouraged.

Students who successfully complete the curriculum requirements and have a minimum GPA of 3.5 receive an Honors baccalaureate degree. In addition, students may qualify to graduate cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude based solely on GPA. These Latin designations are separate and not related to the Honors Program.

Curriculum

Required Courses
HR 190: Crossroads (3 credits) – interdisciplinary, introductory seminar for first year students that orients students to how Honors courses will differ from non-Honors courses. Micah Program students may not be required to take this course.

Honors Senior Seminar (3 credits) - fulfilled by HR 496: Great Books or an approved upper-level substitute (varies by semester).

HR 490: Honors Senior Thesis/Capstone (3 credits) - usually taken during the senior year and may be linked with a senior capstone or seminar course in the student's major or minor. Students must submit a proposal to the Honors Program for their thesis/capstone project. Proposals are due the semester prior to beginning the project.

HR 495: Senior Residency (0 credits) - required of all student their last semester at Saint Louis University. Enrolling in this course indicates a student's intent to graduate from the Honors Program.

Optional Courses
Honors-only courses are courses offered by academic departments with enrollment limited to Honors students. These courses are taught by some of Saint Louis University's most distinguished faculty, and the class size is typically limited to 20 students. Many required Arts & Sciences core classes are offered as Honors-only courses, such as
THEO 100 & 220, PHIL 105 & 205, and HIST 111 & 112.

Cross-listed courses: The majority of Honors courses are cross-listed courses, which means that both Honors students and non-Honors students can enroll in the course. Cross-listed courses involve supplemental assignments for students to earn Honors credit. Honors students must register specifically for the Honors section of the course and complete the supplemental Honors work to earn Honors credit.

Course contracts: Students may elect to turn a non-Honors course into an Honors course by contracting the class with the instructor. The course must be an upper-level course in the student's major or minor area. Students complete an Honors contract agreement with the instructor that describes an additional project(s) that the Honors student will complete in order to earn Honors credit for the course. Contracts must be submitted to the Honors Program by the first Friday of the semester and must be approved by the Honors Program staff.

Graduate courses: Honors students may enroll in graduate course work and receive upper-division Honors credit (limit 9 units).

Non-Course Alternatives
The Honors Program prioritizes experiential learning opportunities for students as a way to complement conventional academic courses, and as a result, we offer a set of non-course alternatives for students to earn Honors credit. These experiential learning opportunities count as upper-level Honors credit, but students are limited to 9 credit hours total of these options. Many of these options provide only credit towards the Honors Program requirements; students may not earn billable credit towards their degree.

Study Abroad (Honors credit only)
Students may earn 3 Honors credits for each semester of classes taken abroad for fall and spring semesters. Summer study abroad credit varies; contact the Honors Program for more information.

Internships, Research & Independent Study (Honors credit; SLU credit varies)

Students may earn Honors credit equivalent to credit assigned by sponsoring department for completing an internship, research, or independent study. If the student is not receiving SLU credit for the experience, the student may earn 1 unit of Honors credit for every 80 hours worked for up to 3 credit hours per experience. Students must submit a proposal to the Honors Program for approval prior to beginning the internship, research, or independent study.

Teaching Assistantships (3 credits)
Students may serve as a teaching assistant for Crossroads after completing the course. Students may be required to submit an application and participate in an interview prior to enrolling. Teaching assistants must be available for the class itself as well as time outside of class sessions to assist the instructor with course preparations. Teaching assistants are also required to submit a written reflection of their experiences at the conclusion of the term before receiving Honors credit.

International Partnership (Honors credit only)
Students may earn up to 3 Honors credits (1 per semester) by participating in the International Partnership Program (IP). Participants are matched with an international student as a language partner and are required to meet with them at least 5 times a semester for a total of 10 hours. Participants then submit five reflection papers (1 page minimum) along with a completed time sheet to obtain Honors credit.

Honors Interdisciplinary Program (Honors credit only)
Students may earn up to 3 Honors credits (1 per semester) by participating in the Honors Interdisciplinary Program (HIP). The Honors Program identifies HIP events on campus and in the St. Louis community; HIP events focus on diversity, inclusion, and cultural exploration. Participants obtain credit by attending at least 5 HIP events per semester and submitting a one page reflection paper for each event attended. Reflections are due within 48 hours of attending the event. HIP events are included in the Honors weekly email and are also available on the HIP calendar.