University Honors Program

Jessica Perolio, Ph.D.
Director of the University Honors Program
http://www.slu.edu/honors

Program Overview
The University Honors Program (UHP) is designed for academically talented students from all majors. The UHP encourages learning both in and out of the classroom through experiences such as seminar-style classes, independent studies, internships, research projects, and study abroad. Students work closely with their Honors advisors to create rigorous courses of study focused on exploring their academic and career interests. The UHP brings students and faculty together in a community of scholars to explore topics of mutual interest in an interdisciplinary way. In addition, the UHP promotes academic excellence through a sequential curriculum of opportunities in which students develop leadership, cultural competence and personal responsibility while growing in their faith.

Admission to the Program
Admission to the UHP is determined by previous academic performance, achievement in college examinations, and evidence of interest in the Program. Interested candidates must apply online.

Eligibility and Deadlines
First-time college students must have an outstanding high school academic record in a rigorous curriculum (represented by only As and Bs in all classes and a minimum 3.8GPA) and a composite ACT score of at least 30 or an SAT score of at least 1330. The GPA and ACT/SAT scores are the minimum for admission consideration; the committee also reviews a personal statement and letters of recommendation and ranks all applicants using a common, multi-dimensional rubric. Complete applications are due no later than December 1 for enrollment in the UHP in fall of the freshman year.

Current students must have completed at least one semester at Saint Louis University, earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA, and have accrued less than 45 credits. Complete applications are due no later than October 15 for spring enrollment and February 15 for fall enrollment.

Transfer students must have earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA at their previous institution(s) and have accrued less than 45 credits. Transfer students may be awarded Honors credit (not to exceed 12 units) for previous Honors coursework at the discretion of the Director of the University Honors Program. Decisions about Honors transfer credit will be made at the time of admission. Complete applications are due no later than October 15 for spring enrollment and August 1 for fall enrollment.

Presidential Scholars are given an extended deadline of May 1 to apply to the UHP. All admissions standards are consistent with first time college students.

International students with an outstanding academic record in a rigorous high school curriculum are encouraged to apply. An equivalent grade point average of at least 3.8 on a 4.0 scale and a minimum English proficiency score of 90 on the TOEFL (IBT) or 7.0 on the IELTS is required, in addition to the personal statement and letters of recommendation. International students are also encouraged to include a standardized test score (ACT or SAT) along with their application, when possible, but this is not required.

Program Requirements
Students must complete a minimum of twenty-four credits of Honors academic credit, including a minimum of 18 credits in traditional classroom-based coursework and 6 credits in out-of-class experiences, such as internships; specific requirements are described below. To remain active in the program, students must earn academic credit in an Honors course or experience each semester.

Students must earn a B or better in Honors courses. Honors courses for which a student earns less than a B will not count toward meeting UHP requirements. Students also must maintain at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average to remain in good standing with the UHP. Student progress is reviewed at the end of each semester; students below a 3.5 cumulative grade point average will be notified they may not continue in the Program.

Students who successfully complete all requirements and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 will graduate through the University Honors Program (listed on their official transcript). Latin Honors (e.g., cum laude) are awarded on the basis of grade point average and are separate from the UHP.

UHP Curriculum
Students must complete twenty-four credits of Honors academic credit. Eighteen of the credits must be from traditional course-based experiences, and six credits must be from experiences out of class.

18 credits in the classroom
HR 1900 Crossroads, an Introduction to Honors (required)
HR 4930 Honors Senior Seminar (required)
HR 4980 Independent Study
Honors-only courses (see below)
Cross-listed courses (see below)
Course contracts (see below)
Graduate courses (see below)

6 credits out of the classroom
HR 4960 Honors Senior Capstone (required)
HR 4810 Honors Teaching Assistantship
HR 4820 Honors Study Abroad
HR 4910 Honors Internship
HR 4840 Honors Research
HR 4850 Honors International Partnership
HR 4860 Professional Development & Vocational Discernment

UHP Academic Policies

Honors Academic Advising
Each Honors student is assigned an Honors Academic Advisor. The Honors advisor provides specialized secondary advising for UHP students throughout their undergraduate careers. Honors Advisors work with primary advisors in all schools and colleges as well as faculty and staff from specialty programs to provide support for Honors students. Honors Advisors help each student construct a rigorous, personalized curriculum plan directed at achieving her or his academic and career goals. Honors advisors also are available to discuss course selection, undergraduate research and capstone options, post-graduation plans, and distinguished scholarship opportunities. Students will meet with their Honors Advisors at least once each academic year to keep track of their progress in the UHP.

Priority Registration
Honors students are able to register one business day before other students in their class. For this purpose, students are ranked on the basis of completed semester credits accepted for credit.

Freshmen    Less than 30 credits,
Sophomores  30 or more credits, but less than 60 credits,
Juniors     60 or more credits, but less than 90 credits,
Seniors     90 or more credits.

Withdrawing from an Honors Course
Students are expected to complete attempted Honors credit options (both in class and out of class), and withdrawing from an Honors course may be arranged only in special circumstances with permission in advance from the Director of the University Honors Program. Permission will be granted only in accordance with University deadlines for withdrawing from a course, and withdrawing from an Honors course may have an impact on the student’s standing in the Honors Program.

Taking an Incomplete in an Honors Course
Students may take an “Incomplete” in an Honors course with permission from the course instructor. The student must complete the course work within one year or the grade for the course becomes an F (in accordance with the University policy for incomplete grades).

Taking Honors Courses Abroad
Students studying abroad may take Honors courses that will count towards the twenty-four required Honors credits, but only with permission in advance from the Director of the University Honors Program. Students may develop a contract for an Honors course while studying at the Saint Louis University Madrid Campus; again, the student must have permission in advance from the Director of the University Honors Program.

Dismissal from the Honors Program
Students must remain in good standing with the Honors Program by (1) maintaining at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA, (2) earning Honors credit every semester, and (3) earning a B or better in required Honors courses (i.e., HR 1900: Crossroads, HR 496: Honors Senior Seminar, or HR 4960: Honors Senior Capstone).

Each semester, the UHP reviews each student’s progress in all three of these areas. Students who have a cumulative GPA below a 3.5, and/or who have not earned Honors credit one or both terms of that year, and/or who earn a B- or below in a required Honors course will be dismissed from the UHP. Students who are dismissed from the UHP are not permitted to re-enroll.

Honors-Only Courses
Numerous academic departments offer courses 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 1000 & 2210, PHIL 1050 & 2050, and HIST 1110 & 1120. Options vary by semester.

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 (designated by an H in the section number) and must complete the supplemental Honors work. Students may not opt out of the Honors section or the supplemental Honors work after the University add/drop deadline.

Course Contracts
Students may elect to earn Honors credit through a non-Honors course by contracting the class with the professor. The course must be at the 3000 or 4000 level in the student’s major or minor area. Students must submit an Honors Contract Agreement with the professor’s support that describes supplemental assignments the student will complete for Honors credit. Contracts must be submitted to the UHP for approval by the first Friday of the semester. Students may not opt out of the supplemental Honors work, which is graded pass/no pass. For the course to count towards the student’s Honors requirements, the student must pass the supplemental Honors work and earn a B or better in the course.

Graduate Courses
Graduate courses will count towards the twenty-four required Honors credits.