

# Honors College Student Handbook



University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

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The Honors College Student Handbook is designed to answer your questions about Honors College benefits and opportunities, advising and support services, the curriculum, and registration procedures. Please keep it on hand for future reference.

Contact the Honors College office at (414) 229-4658 if you have questions about any of the information in this handbook.

# Welcome to the Honors College

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Honors College has been an important part of UWM since its founding by Dr. Herman Weil, Professor of Psychology, in 1960. Within the university's large, urban setting, the Honors College offers the benefits of a small liberal arts college to a select group of students.

Honors College students come from a wide range of academic, cultural, and economic 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 teach 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.

For all of these reasons, as well as the high academic quality of Honors courses, 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.

About 500 students are enrolled in the Honors College, and each year about 60 students graduate with an Honors degree.



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The Honors College offers the benefits of a small liberal arts college within a major research university.

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## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Students pursuing their first degree may be admitted to the Honors College as freshmen, continuing, or transfer students if they meet the College's criteria. Freshmen are admitted on the basis of their high school record and ACT composite score. Continuing UWM or transfer students should have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, have met the University English requirement, and have completed not more than 40 credits. All new students meet with an Honors advisor to discuss how the Honors College will fit into their academic plans.

## **CONTINUING IN THE HONORS COLLEGE**

The Honors College requires students to meet the following GPA/enrollment criteria:

- A. To continue in the Honors College, students must maintain the following minimum grade point averages for work done at UWM:

Freshmen & Sophomores	3.2
Juniors	3.3
Seniors	3.4
To graduate with an Honors degree	3.5

Note: Students admitted as freshmen who fail to earn at least a 3.0 grade point average during their first semester of full-time enrollment at UWM (or their first 12 credits) cannot enroll in an Honors class in their second semester.

- B. Students admitted as new freshmen, who need to complete the University English Requirement, must complete Honors 200 in the first semester following their completion of the English requirement to continue in the program.
- C. Students who do not take Honors courses for two consecutive semesters will be considered "inactive" and dropped from the Honors College.

## **GRADUATING WITH HONORS**

All UWM Undergraduate Schools and Colleges now offer the Honors Degree, a special diploma awarded to students who complete Honors College requirements. Students who complete a Senior Thesis receive the special distinction "Honors with Thesis."

Graduating with an Honors Degree provides convincing evidence of outstanding academic achievement, a valuable accomplishment students can note on resumes and graduate school applications. To graduate with Honors, students must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 and accumulate at least 21 Honors credits. See Courses and Curriculum, pages 14-16, for details.

# Benefits and Opportunities

Honors students receive many benefits. Among these are priority registration, designated Honors study facilities, extensive interaction with Honors faculty, and special academic and scholarship opportunities.

## **PRIORITY REGISTRATION**

Honors students have access to priority registration. This means that Honors students may register before most other students. See **Registering for Honors Courses**, page 13, for instructions on priority registration.

## **HONORS COLLEGE STUDY FACILITIES**

Students in the Honors College have access to a **library study room** (Golda Meir Library W204). This room is reserved for quiet study. Please contact the Honors College office (Garland 302) for the lock combination.

The **Honors College Student Center**, located in Garland Hall 310, provides a place where Honors students can socialize and study. The Student Center also serves as a meeting place for Honors student committees and provides a setting for Honors College social gatherings.

## **HONORS HOUSING**

Once a housing contract has been issued, Honors students are eligible to apply for residency in the UWM Honors House located in Sandburg Halls. Honors Housing is an option for students who are excited about learning, who love meeting new people, and who know they can learn as much from each other as from their professors. For more information please contact University Housing at (414) 229-6123.

## **INTERACTION WITH HONORS COLLEGE FACULTY**

Honors faculty are committed not only to teaching, but also to interacting with students in and out of the classroom. The small size of Honors classes encourages this relationship. Consequently, Honors faculty are an excellent source of advice, help, and recommendations for students pursuing scholarships, study abroad, and other academic opportunities.

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Honors College offers several scholarships, including the **Ziegler Family Scholarships**, **Ed and Diane Zore Scholarships**, **Robert W. Baird Scholarships**, **Lawrence Baldassaro Scholarship**, **KleinOsowski Scholarship** and **Study Abroad Scholarships**.

There are also annual awards such as the **Herman Weil Senior Thesis Award** that funds research expenses associated with completion of a senior thesis and the **Honors College Essay Competition** that offers cash prizes to Honors students who submit outstanding essays. The competition is open to freshmen and upper-level students alike.

## **HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Honors College Advisory Committee sets Honors policy, approves new Honors seminars, and oversees Honors College administration. Four Honors juniors or seniors are selected to serve on the Committee for one-year terms. Interested students should contact the Director or Assistant Director.

## **WINGSPREAD FELLOWS PROGRAM**

Wingspread Conferences, which investigate issues in public affairs, the family, and education, invite leaders and distinguished scholars from America and abroad to share ideas and develop strategies for change. Each summer, Honors juniors and seniors are invited to apply for the Wingspread Fellows Program. If accepted, they can apply to attend a one to three-day conference at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin, as guests of the Johnson Foundation. This highly selective program invites only two or three students from all member universities and colleges to each of the conferences held throughout the year. Ask an Honors advisor for more information about the Wingspread Fellows Program.

“...the conference opened with an introduction of the participants. It then truly hit me how lucky I was to be there. Those assembled were some of the top experts in the world.... I was extremely impressed by the dynamism of the group. Among the participants were experts who represented the ‘reality’ of the world outside of academia....”

--Honors College Wingspread Fellow

## STUDYING ABROAD

Studying abroad is an academically challenging and enjoyable way to earn Honors credits. It can enrich undergraduate education, improve chances for future opportunities, develop language skills, and provide a deeper understanding of global issues.

Honors students have studied at universities in Egypt, Russia, France, Germany, England, Scotland, Italy, Kenya, Brazil, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. To earn Honors credit while studying abroad, students must meet with an Honors College advisor **before** leaving the United States.

## HONOR SOCIETIES

Because of their outstanding academic records, many Honors students are invited to join Honor societies. While Honor societies are not affiliated directly with the Honors College, the Honors staff can provide information about many societies—Phi Eta Sigma, Mortar Board, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Golden Key, to name a few—to help students decide which would be most beneficial for them. Students should refer to the Honors College web page for more information.



# Current College Information

The Honors College does its best to keep students up to date on opportunities, events, and course offerings. It is important that you notify the Honors College office of any changes in your name, address, and telephone number, as we do not automatically receive this information from the University. This will ensure that you receive Honors College information promptly.

## HONORS COLLEGE COURSE BOOK

Each semester, near the time that the UWM Schedule of Classes is posted online, the Honors Course Description Book is also available online. The course booklet includes detailed information on Honors courses offered that semester. Course descriptions include reading lists and course requirements so you know what to expect from each course. Important information about priority registration is also provided in the beginning of each book.

## HONORS COLLEGE ON THE WEB

The Honors College's Web address is: **[honors.uwm.edu](http://honors.uwm.edu)**

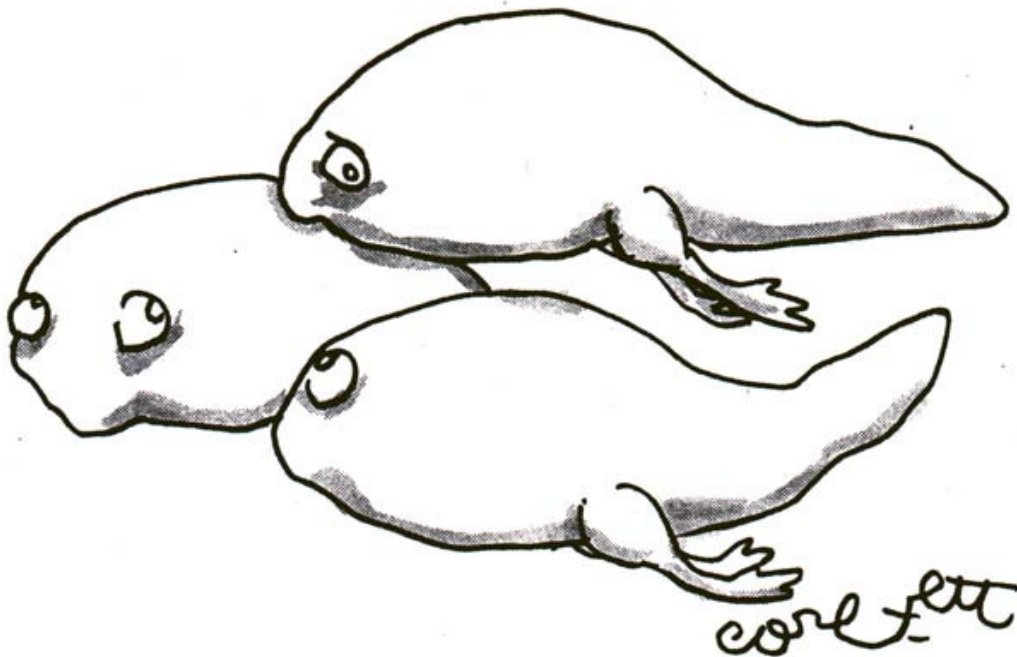
On the Honors College site, students can find online versions of this handbook, the Senior Thesis and Senior Project handbooks, and a current Honors Course Description Book. Also posted is a directory of Honors faculty and staff, the Wingspread Fellows page, and information on the Honors College Student Association, Honors activities, and Independent Study and Research options.

You can also find us on Facebook:

**<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Milwaukee-WI/University-of-Wisconsin-Milwaukee-Honors-College/5958848772>**

## HONORS COLLEGE LISTSERV

Honors students will receive timely information via e-mail on the Honors College listserv. The listserv provides information on events, opportunities, scholarships, and important dates. 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 discouraged.



THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

JACK CORBETT

*"I'd like to go to law school, but I guess I'm destined to become a frog."*

# Advising and Support

The Honors College staff provides accessible, personalized advising to students in the College. At any time, you may stop in or make an appointment with the Director, Assistant Director, or academic advisors to discuss your academic plans. Our advisors can help you with course selection, study abroad opportunities, independent study, scholarships, graduate or professional school applications, or any other academic matter.

## **HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

The Honors College Student Association (HCSA), the official student group for Honors students, offers the opportunity to get more involved with the Honors College, UWM, and the Milwaukee community. Student members of the HCSA organize many events and programs, including the Honors College Student Orientation, social events, and service activities.

All Honors students **automatically** become members of the HCSA and may attend meetings, serve on committees, and run for office in the organization (elections are held annually).

## **HONORS COLLEGE ORIENTATION**

New freshmen Honors College students are required to attend the Honors College Orientation, held shortly before the fall semester begins. The orientation program, hosted by the Honors College Student Association, gives new students the opportunity to meet the HCSA officers, as well as Honors College faculty and staff, in an informal and informative atmosphere.

## **FRESHMAN ADVISING**

All freshmen are required to meet with an Honors advisor before registering for classes to discuss their schedules, progress, and Honors options.

## **SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR REVIEW AND THE SENIOR INTERVIEW**

Honors students are invited to meet with an Honors advisor during their sophomore and junior years to discuss their academic progress and plans. During these meetings, students can discuss scholarship opportunities; options for earning Honors credit, such as study abroad, independent study or research, Senior Thesis or Project; admission to graduate or professional school; and career goals.

Seniors meet with the Assistant Director to ensure that they have met Honors graduation requirements and to discuss graduate school and career plans.

## **HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ADVISING**

The Honors College provides personal scholarship advising for students, and the Honors office houses scholarship information. Students can get help in identifying scholarships, as well as preparing essays and personal statements. This support has helped many Honors students win local scholarships, as well as prestigious national awards.

## **HONORS COLLEGE WRITING SPECIALIST**

The Honors College Writing Specialist, Lydia Equitz, is available by appointment to help students plan, write, and revise essays. She also schedules periodic writing workshops which give students the opportunity to improve their writing skills through revision. Students can make appointments to meet with Lydia by signing up on the clipboard outside her office in Garland Hall, Room 314.

# Registering for Honors Courses

Honors students should consult with an Honors College Advisor each semester about their progress toward satisfying Honors graduation requirements, in addition to meeting with their academic advisor for information on other requirements. Full-time students should try to register for one or more Honors courses each semester; part-time students, one Honors course every other semester.

## PRIORITY REGISTRATION

Honors students are given priority registration for fall and spring semesters to ensure that they can complete their Honors requirements along with those of their major. Before fall or spring registration begins, students should check on PAWS to find out 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. An automatic weekly process will add wait listed students to classes on a first-come/first serve basis. Whether you have been moved into a course, or still remain on a wait list, the Department of Enrollment Services will send you a weekly e-mail notifying you of your status. More details on the wait list procedure can be found at: [waitlist.uwm.edu](http://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.

**Note:** Announcements of new sections and class space are made through the Honors listserv. **Therefore, be sure to log in to your UWM e-mail account regularly to avoid missing important information.**

# Courses and Curriculum

## INTRODUCTORY HONORS SEMINARS

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

**Math 221** (Honors Calculus I; 5 cr): A high Math Placement Test score and permission of either the Honors director or the Math Department are 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; 5 cr): Open only to students who have successfully completed Math 221, Honors Calculus I. This course can be taken concurrently with Honors 200. **Students will receive 1 Honors credit for completion of Math 222.**

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

<b>Honors 200</b>	<b>3 to 6 credits</b>
<b>Upper-level seminars</b>	<b>at least 9 credits</b>
<b>Non-Seminar Options</b>	<b>up to 9 credits</b>

**Honors courses cannot be audited or taken with the credit/no credit option. Students must earn at least a B- in an Honors course to earn Honors credit. You can earn Honors credits by enrolling in upper-level seminars, independent study, research in Honors, study abroad, a graduate seminar (numbered 700 or above) while an undergraduate, or Senior thesis/project.**

## **UPPER-LEVEL HONORS SEMINARS**

**Departmental Honors Seminars (3H cr):** Offered through departments, 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 once they successfully complete Honors 200 and achieve sophomore standing. Here is a sampling:

### **ARTS (A)**

Honors 380

### **HUMANITIES (HU)**

Comparative Literature 381

English 685

French 383

History 398

Honors 350

Italian 383

Philosophy 381

### **NATURAL SCIENCES (NS)**

Biological Sciences 380

Chemistry 381

Honors 352

Physics 380

### **SOCIAL SCIENCES (SS)**

Anthropology 381

Geography 381

History 399

Honors 351

Sociology 380

Political Science 380

Psychology 380

## **GER AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Most Honors courses may be used to satisfy General Education Requirements (GER). All Honors 200 courses count toward the humanities GER.

## **CREDIT IN THE MAJOR**

Most departmental Honors seminars count toward the major in their respective departments, but students should contact the department for approval. Honors Tutorial (Honors 685), Research in Honors (Honors 686), Senior Honors Project (Honors 687), and Senior Honors Thesis (Honors 689) may be counted toward the major with the permission of the department concerned.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY, RESEARCH, AND OTHER OPTIONS

Students must contact the Honors College office before registering for any of the following courses. Special registration procedures apply.

**Honors 685** (Honors Tutorial; 1-3H cr): An independent study course for students who cannot arrange independent study through one of the departments. Prerequisite: junior standing. Retakable to a max of 6H credits.

**Honors 686** (Research in Honors; 2-3H cr): Work done as an assistant on a faculty research project. Prerequisite: junior standing and 9H credits.

**Honors 687** (Senior Honors Project; 1-6H cr): A major independent creative project, such as performance, exhibit, or composition, under faculty supervision and completed during the senior year. A detailed Senior Honors Project Handbook is available in the Honors College office and through the Honors web site. Retakable once to 6H credit max. Prerequisite: senior standing.

**Honors 689** (Senior Honors Thesis; 3-6H cr): A major independent research and writing project under faculty supervision and completed during the senior year. Honors with Thesis degree is awarded for successful completion. A detailed Senior Honors Thesis Handbook is available in the Honors College office and through the Honors web site. Honors 689 may be repeated once with director consent. Prerequisite: senior standing.

**Advanced Independent Study** (1-6H cr): Independent study courses offered through departments. Course numbers vary. Prerequisite: junior standing.

**Graduate Courses:** Qualifying seniors may take courses at the 700-level or above to fulfill Honors College graduation requirements. Permission must be obtained from the instructor, the department chair, and the Honors College Director.

**Honors Work at Other Universities** (maximum of 9H cr): Transfer students who have participated in an Honors College at their previous school may be eligible for up to 9H credit. See the Honors College Assistant Director.

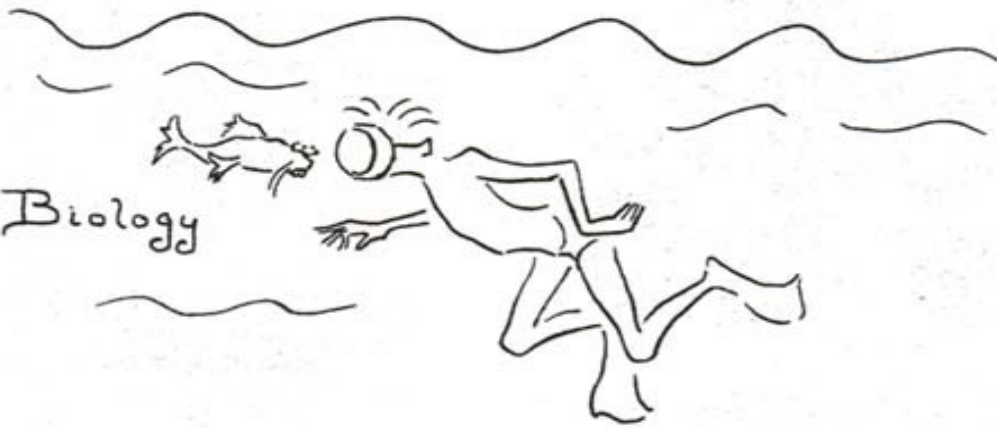
**Study Abroad:** Any approved study abroad program may be eligible. However, you must meet with an Honors advisor prior to studying abroad in order to establish eligibility, and arrange for Honors credit.

# Summer Research

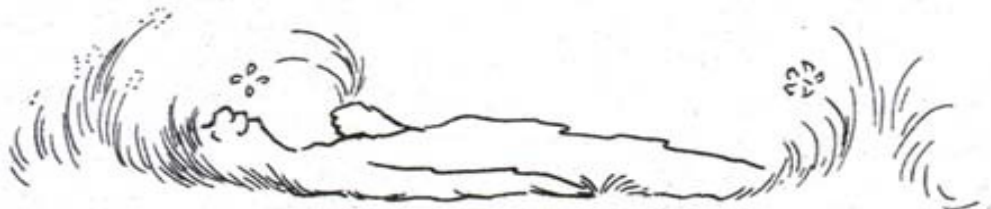
Geology



Biology



Botany



V S HIXSON

# Honors College Staff

The Honors College office, Garland Hall 302, is open Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. All Honors faculty and staff can be reached at (414) 229-4658.

The Honors staff is:

Charles Schuster, Director	Garland Hall 302A
Robin Weigert, Assistant Director	Garland Hall 319
Kate Coffaro, Senior Student Services Coordinator	Garland Hall 317
Shannon M. Byrne Irwin, Student Services Coordinator	Garland Hall 318
Laura Murphy, Program Assistant	Garland Hall 302
Lydia Equitz, Writing Specialist and Senior Lecturer	Garland Hall 314
Alan Singer, Honors College Lecturer	Garland Hall 316
David Southward, Sr. Thesis Liaison and Senior Lecturer	Garland Hall 313
Honors College Student Center	Garland Hall 310
Honors College Seminar Rooms	Garland Hall 304/326
Honors College Library Study Room	Library W204

# Notes

