

University Honors Program

Honors Courses

Honors courses are open to qualified undergraduates in any school of the university.

University Honors Program

The goal of the University Honors Program is to challenge students to launch extraordinary lives. We do this by providing exceptional classes, advising, and enrichment opportunities to academically motivated undergraduates at the University of Kansas. From Convocation to Commencement, we strive to foster a transformational community of critical thinkers — a community that is diverse, highly qualified, engaged, and motivated to lead.

Overview

Honors classes are typically small, discussion-oriented, and taught by exceptional instructors. Many honors courses fulfill KU Core (or major) requirements, but they are likely to do so in more depth than their non-honors equivalents. While there is no required number of honors credit hours in which a student must enroll each semester, students must complete at least six (6) honors courses totaling at least eighteen (18) credit hours to graduate with university honors.

During each student's first year in the program, a semester-long seminar provides an introduction to an academic area of study in an informal setting that allows students to get to know one another and their instructor. The seminar explores critical questions in society and acquaints students with resources available at KU.

Whatever a student's school or major, the University Honors Program encourages them to explore their interests through the broad curriculum choices KU has to offer, expanding their knowledge through a range of liberal arts and science courses. Additionally, honors students are required to engage in educational experiences beyond the classroom such as research, study abroad, internships, or community service.

An honors student's success team includes honors advisors, faculty fellows, and honors mentors. Jayhawk Academic Advising facilitates early and frequent contact with honors advisors who are knowledgeable about the student's areas of interest. Honors students benefit from priority enrollment, which provides flexibility in planning one's academic curriculum.

More information is available at the University Honors Program website (<https://honors.ku.edu/>).

Admission

Students from all backgrounds who are seeking academic challenge, personalized guidance, and an intellectual community during their time at KU are encouraged to apply to the University Honors Program. The program uses a holistic admissions process. For incoming first-year students, the program considers a student's response to short-answer questions and an essay prompt, as well as their academic record and involvement. For current KU students and incoming transfer students,

applications are evaluated based on college GPA, involvement and activities, and an essay. Students interested in applying can learn more by visiting the University Honors Program website (<https://honors.ku.edu/apply/>).

Requirements for Completion

- Cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher at graduation.
 - Students whose GPA drops below 3.25 prior to their final semester will be expected to raise their GPA in subsequent semesters.
 - Students whose GPA is consistently below 3.25 over two or more consecutive semesters may be discontinued from the honors program.
- One (1) first-year honors seminar (HNRS 190 or HNRS 195).
- At least six (6) honors courses totaling at least eighteen (18) credit hours. These can include:
 - Courses designated HNRS.
 - Honors courses offered by individual departments or programs.
 - Graduate-level courses numbered 700 and above.
 - Less commonly taught languages (maximum of two courses).
 - Courses completed under an Honors Course Contract (<https://honors.ku.edu/course-contract/>) (maximum of two courses).
- Four (4) Enhanced Learning Experiences (ELEs). Each ELE may have course-based and/or experience-based paths for completion. Each of the student's four ELEs must be from a different category, chosen from among the following:
 - Public Service.
 - Cultural Literacy & Social Justice.
 - Global Citizenship.
 - Aesthetic Engagement.
 - Professional Development & Social Entrepreneurship.
 - Leadership.
 - Research Skills & In-Depth Learning.
 - Interdisciplinarity & Breadth of Learning.

To receive credit for an ELE, students must post a written reflection in their KU Portal when the experience is completed.

Though some experiences may overlap between two or more categories, no single activity can be counted toward more than one ELE requirement. A course taken toward the 18 hours of honors credit can also be used to fulfill an ELE if the student completes an appropriate reflection.

For further questions regarding honors program requirements, please contact the University Honors Program at honors@ku.edu or 785-864-4225.

Nunemaker Center

Nunemaker Center, home of the University Honors Program, is located on Daisy Hill across the street from Templin Hall. Honors students are encouraged to take advantage of the spaces available at Nunemaker, including several classrooms and study areas, a kitchen, and comfortable lounges. The center is open most days and some evenings.

Courses

HNRS 177. First Year Seminar: _____. 3 Credits.

A limited-enrollment, seminar course for first-time freshmen, addressing current issues in Honors. Course is designed to meet the critical thinking learning outcome of the KU Core. First-Year Seminar topics are coordinated and approved by the Office of First-Year Experience. Prerequisite: First-time freshman status.

HNRS 190. First Year Honors Seminar: _____. 1 Credits.

This seminar serves as an introduction to the University Honors Program, to research opportunities and other academic resources available at the University of Kansas, and to specific disciplinary perspectives on an overarching theme. While closely examining the designated topic, students develop skills in research, reading, writing, and in-depth discussion. Required of all first-year Honors students; open only to first-year students in the University Honors Program.

HNRS 195. Transfer Honors Seminar: _____. 1 Credits.

This seminar serves as an introduction to the Honors Program, and to the research opportunities and other academic resources available at the University of Kansas. This seminar fosters the transfer students' oral and written communication and the critical assessment of their academic and pre-professional goals. The instructor of the student's seminar also serves as the student's honors mentor. Open only to transfer students in the University Honors Program.

HNRS 250. Citizen Philanthropy: An Introduction to the Nonprofit World. 3 Credits.

This interdisciplinary course explores the historical and economic roots of citizen generosity and the role of the nonprofit/philanthropic sector. This service learning course combines volunteer experiences and public service internships with research and exploration of the missions and ethical orientations of nonprofit organizations. The course is designed to explore the social and the ethical contexts of the nonprofit sector with opportunities to demonstrate social and civic responsibility.

HNRS 310. University Scholars Seminar. 3 Credits.

An interdisciplinary survey to acquaint students with some of the main ideas, methods, and outstanding problems in various areas of scholarship. The organization of human knowledge inside and outside the university, as well as the implications of this organization for scholarship and society, are emphasized. Ideas and methods in various disciplines are contrasted and compared. Required of and open only to newly admitted students in the University Scholars Program.

HNRS 320. Global Scholars Seminar. 3 Credits.

The Global Scholars Seminar is designed to foster academically talented and motivated undergraduate students' interest in global studies. Through interdisciplinary coursework, mentorship and research experience in global studies, the seminar provides cohorts of students with opportunities to develop their intellectual capabilities and interests to the fullest and better prepares them for careers, further study, and leadership roles in today's complex international arena. Required of and open only to newly admitted students in the Global Scholars Program.

HNRS 370. Personal Writing Seminar. 1 Credits.

This seminar helps students develop their personal writing abilities. Students analyze language and rhetorical choices in the genre of the personal essay. Students demonstrate rhetorical flexibility within the genre, considering audience, purpose, and application of the material. This course is intended for candidates for national fellowships, regardless of University Honors Program membership. (Same as LA&S 370.) Prerequisite: Permission of the Office of Fellowships.

HNRS 380. Critical Thinking and Advocacy Seminar. 1 Credits.

The focus of this class is on honing the two basic skills of critical thinking and advocacy. In this seminar, students develop a basic system for critical analysis that can be applied generally; test that critical analysis system

in a series of practicums to develop the skills necessary to apply it; and develop a basic system for designing effective and ethical persuasive messages. (Same as LA&S 380.) Prerequisite: Permission of the Office of Fellowships.

HNRS 395. Edwards Campus Honors Seminar. 1 Credits.

This seminar serves as an introduction to the KU Edwards Campus Honors Program, and to the research opportunities and other academic resources available at the University of Kansas Edwards Campus. The seminar focuses on an overarching theme or current societal problem, and explores specific disciplinary perspectives of that theme. While closely examining the designated topic, students develop skills in research, reading, writing, and in-depth discussion. This seminar fosters the KU Edwards Campus students' oral and written communication and the critical assessment of their academic and pre-professional goals. Required of all KU Edwards Campus Honors students. Prerequisite: KU Edwards Campus Honors Student.

HNRS 410. Professional Responsibility, Honors: _____. 1-3 Credits.

This course focuses on the challenges facing practitioners in a specific professional field. Students will learn about the ethics, conduct, and other responsibilities associated with that profession, and will explore career choices within the field. Prerequisite: Membership in the University Honors Program, sophomore standing or above, and prior completion of an Honors Seminar (HNRS 190 or HNRS 195.) Concurrent enrollment with HNRS 195 is possible with special permission from the Honors Program.

HNRS 492. Topics and Problems on: _____. 1-6 Credits.

An interdisciplinary study of different topics. Designed especially for juniors and seniors.

HNRS 495. Honors Directed Study. 1-3 Credits.

Individual and supervised study of an interdisciplinary topic or topics. May be repeated for a total of up to 6 hours. Up to one 3-hour enrollment will count as one course toward completion of the University Honors Program. Prerequisite: Membership in the University Honors Program and consent of the instructor.

HNRS 496. Honors Internship. 1-3 Credits.

Students participate in an internship in an organization related to their professional/career goals. An internship plan is developed by the student in conjunction with the student's academic adviser and an authorized agent of the internship site. Prerequisite: Instructor permission required.

HNRS 497. Honors Seminar Assistantship. 0 Credits.

Open to all Honors students selected to be Honors Seminar Assistants, regardless of major field. These students assist Seminar instructors in the teaching of an Honors seminar in various ways, including but not limited to: leading group discussions, engaging students in the learning process, developing classroom material, encouraging and guiding students to solve problems themselves and helping students prepare for their advising appointments. May be repeated. Prerequisite: HNRS 190 or HNRS 195 and membership in the University Honors Program.

HNRS 595. Edwards Campus Honors Capstone. 3 Credits.

This seminar serves as an interdisciplinary capstone experience for students KU Edwards Campus Honors Program, and as an introduction to the research opportunities and other academic resources available at the University of Kansas Edwards Campus. The seminar focuses on an overarching theme or current societal problem that students explore from the perspectives of several disciplines, incorporating experiential learning opportunities. While closely examining the designated topic, students develop skills in research, reading, writing, and in-depth discussion. This seminar fosters the KU Edwards Campus students' oral and written

communication and the critical assessment of their academic and pre-professional goals. Required of all KU Edwards Campus Honors students.