



University Honors Program Curriculum Goals

The Honors Program seeks to develop and maintain a course of study that supplements general education and enriches disciplinary and professional education in ways that promote student development in areas such as:

- Independent learning
- Articulate speaking and writing
- Critical and disciplined thinking
- Problem solving and use of scientific method
- Awareness of complexity
- Ability to apply knowledge to new contexts
- Ethical sensitivity
- Social responsibility
- Curiosity
- Awareness of one's place in a cultural tradition
- International understanding
- Willingness to take risks
- Effective participation in service learning
- Ability to use interdisciplinary framework
- Leadership development
- Ability to apply appropriate research methods

Of course, not all courses will address all goals; the goals of Honors calculus are distinct from those of Honors history. But all courses address some of these goals as they are relevant to the material being studied. We encourage all instructors to look for ways to incorporate these goals into their teaching.

Typical Objectives:

- The Honors student will become more proficient in self-expression because Honors courses are writing intensive, with conscious attention given to the skills of speaking, writing, and critical thinking.
- The Honors student will be encouraged to become an independent learner through the use of discussion, problem solving, and the science Honors classes and Honors projects.
- The Honors student will become aware of the societal and ethical significance of intellectual work because Honors courses consciously address questions of context and values.
- The Honors student will be capable of advanced work in the major exceeding that of most other students because Honors work will open new opportunities of individual learning and mentorships.
- The Honors student will be encouraged to develop a sense of curiosity, risk-taking, and exploration by the scheduling of courses that go beyond the bounds of the regular curriculum and that push at the frontiers of our knowledge.
- The Honors student will become reflective on the nature of the disciplinary work undertaken, because Honors courses include discussion of both the subject matter and of the process of knowing that subject matter.
- The Honors student will discover the relationships that exist between the disciplinary work undertaken and other areas of intellectual life because the Honors humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences courses and Honors seminars are consistently interdisciplinary.
- The Honors student will become aware of the individual strengths and weaknesses each brings to the academic task because of a consistent and extensive process of individual evaluation that goes far beyond the assignment of a letter grade.