Honors

Name: Honors Program
Location: LC 202 - LC 204
Telephone: 801-863-6262
Email: kmcperson@uvu.edu
Web Address: uvu.edu/honors
Chair: Kate McPherson

Mission Statement
The UVU Honors Program enhances the collegiate experience of highly motivated students through specialized academic and enrichment opportunities that cultivate personal, professional, and civic engagement.

Eligibility
We encourage any student with curiosity, talent, and drive apply for admission to the Honors Program through a competitive application process that assesses them holistically based in part on two short admissions essays. There is no minimum GPA or test score required to be admitted. We welcome and support students from all backgrounds seeking any face-to-face baccalaureate or associates degree.

Honors students also experience extensive mentoring by faculty while researching and completing a year-long Honors thesis or project, leaving students well-positioned to succeed in applications to competitive graduate and professional schools. Close interaction with faculty in small Honors courses also fosters opportunities for students' career and professional development. Graduate school and employment applications are enhanced by the numerous research, field, and experiential learning opportunities facilitated by the Honors Program.

To earn Honors Program distinction on the transcript and diploma and to wear our regalia, students must complete between 20 and 31 credits of Honors level coursework based on their completed credits at the time of admission. An overall GPA of at least 3.40 must be attained to qualify for the Honors Program Graduate distinction.

Unique in Utah, the Honors Colloquium is a 1-credit course that includes cohort building activities emphasizing cultural, outdoor, and academic activities. These include trips to the Utah Symphony, Utah Opera, guest lecturers from the academic and professional communities, outdoor recreation activities and overnight trips, reading groups, and community or campus service projects.

The Honors Program also offers access to merit-based tuition scholarships to Utah residents, as well as access to competitive housing scholarships available to both resident and non-resident students. Application to the program and for these scholarships occurs each October for Spring semester and each January for Fall semester. Students earn scholarships based on criteria that include academic achievement, creativity, innovative thinking, and intellectual potential. Two application essays serve as the primary method of assessing applicants.

Honors Scholarships
The Honors Program offers access to competitive, merit-based tuition scholarships to Utah residents. It also offers access to a competitive merit-based housing scholarship at a designated apartment complex near campus which is available to both resident and non-resident students. Application to the program and for these scholarships occurs each October for Spring semester and each January for Fall semester. Students earn scholarships based on criteria that include academic achievement, creativity, innovative thinking, and intellectual potential. Two application essays serve as the primary method of assessing applicants.

Honors Courses
Through Honors, students complete a series of small classes with other highly motivated students, guided by faculty invested in their students' intellectual potential. Students grapple with texts and ideas that have fascinated the world's great thinkers, writers, artists, and scientists as they gain the courage to try out new and challenging ideas, places, and experiences. Students use Honors Contracts in their major to complete required or elective upper-division courses at an Honors level. The Program concludes with each baccalaureate student completing a two-semester senior thesis or project that demonstrates commitment and skill within the student's selected major. Through Honors, highly motivated students can chart a customized program of study most suited to their post-baccalaureate plans.

Honors Graduation Requirements
Students must have a 3.4 cumulative GPA when applying for graduation to become an Honors Program Graduate.

Lower-Division Requirements for Associates Degrees: 20 credits
2 credits of Honors Colloquium: HONR 100R
3 credits of Ancient Legacies: HONR 2100
3 credits of Modern Legacies: HONR 2100
3 credits of Honors Ethics and Values: PHIL 205H
3 credits of General Education math or science, e.g., GEO 101H, BIOL 101H, MAT 103H
6 credits of any other General Education course at an Honors level, e.g. ENGL 201H, MUSC 101H

Lower-Division Requirement for Baccalaureate Degrees: 30 credits
2 credits of Honors Colloquium: HONR 100R
3 credits of Ancient Legacies: HONR 2100
3 credits of Modern Legacies: HONR 2100
3 credits of Honors Ethics and Values: PHIL 205H
3 credits of General Education math or science, e.g., GEO 101H, BIOL 101H, MAT 103H
6 credits of any other General Education course at an Honors level, e.g. ENGL 201H, MUSC 101H
6 credits of upper-division courses 3000+, completed at an Honors level within student's major using an Honors Contract
1 credit of Honors Capstone: HONR 400R
3 credits of Honors Thesis or Honors Project: HONR 498R or 499R
Honors

Upper-Division Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees: 24 credits
2 credits of Honors Colloquium: HONR 100R
3 credits of Ancient Legacies: HONR 2000
3 credits of Modern Legacies: HONR 2100
12 credits of upper-division courses numbered 3000+, completed at an Honors level within student's major using an Honors Contract
1 credit of Honors Capstone: HONR 400R
3 credits of Honors Thesis or Honors Project: HONR 498R or 499R

Program Requirements
The Honors Program is designed around intensive, face-to-face interaction. Honors students typically complete at least one Honors course per semester; scholarship students are required to do so, but may petition for exceptions. In their first two semesters, all Honors students must complete Ancient Legacies (HONR 2000) and Modern Legacies (HONR 2100), as well as Honors Colloquium (HONR 100R). Course descriptions for the Legacies courses, which vary in focus each semester, are available under the Curriculum section of the Honors homepage. Colloquium is a 1-credit course that includes on-campus lectures on a wide-range of topics combined with cohort building activities emphasizing cultural, outdoor, and academic activities. These include trips to premier arts venues, guest lecturers from the academic and professional communities, outdoor recreation activities, and community or campus service projects.

Honors Program Director: Kate McPherson, PhD
  • Telephone: 801-863-8055
  • Email: kmcperson@uvu.edu

Professor McPherson directs all aspects of the program and mentors students at every level.

Honors Program Coordinator: Allen Hill
  • Telephone: 801-863-6841
  • Email: allen.hill@uvu.edu

Allen Hill assists with program operations, experiential learning trips, and advises Honors students with last names A-L.

Honors Program Coordinator: Tiffany Nez
  • Telephone: 801-863-6223
  • Email: tiffany.nez@uvu.edu

Tiffany Nez assists with program operations, Honors scholarships and housing, and advises Honors students with last names M-Z.

FACULTY
  MCPHERSON, Kathryn R. Professor