Accelerated Honors Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Accelerated Honors Program?

The Accelerated Honors Program is designed for students who enter the Honors College with 30 or more completed credit hours. The program includes a primary emphasis upon the completion of major requirements and the production of a final distinction project in six or fewer semesters.

Why have I been placed into the Accelerated Honors Program?

Students entering the university with sophomore or junior status typically do not need to complete the introductory-level course work that is featured in the General Honors Program. Upperclassmen planning to complete their degrees in six or fewer semesters need to enter upper-level courses in the major program as early as possible. Accelerated Honors students are exempted from redundant introductory-level courses; in return, they are asked to undertake higher-level learning in their major program and to produce a senior distinction project prior to graduation.

Am I required to complete the Accelerated Honors Program in six or fewer semesters?

No. The program is designed to help students graduate in three years or less, but if you want or need to study at Missouri State for a longer period of time, that is perfectly acceptable.

Am I allowed to enroll in general honors courses?

Yes. Students in the Accelerated Honors Program may enroll in any course offered by the Honors College. General honors courses may be used to satisfy a variety of general education, major, and minor requirements.

Will I have to enroll in extra major courses as part of the Accelerated Honors Program?

The Accelerated Honors Program is designed to help you graduate with distinction in your major, therefore your honors studies are closely integrated into the requirements for your degree program. Honors students may design honors components to complement existing major courses, enroll in honors specific sections of existing major courses, or self-design a guided-tutorial course that can satisfy major requirements with approval from the department. You might add additional credit hours to your study plan, but in most cases, additional courses will not be necessary.

For example, a History major might design the following program:

HST 350 Latin American Civilization + UHC 396 Honors Independent Study = 4 HONR credits
HST 518 Colonial America + UHC 398 Honors Undergraduate Research = 4 HONR credits
UHC 499 Honors Distinction Project (cross-listed as HST 397 Special Topics) = 4 HONR credits
The student in this example is completing three HST courses for major credit, but is earning honors credit by completing additional elements of study.

Are the requirements for the Accelerated Honors Program more difficult than the requirements for my major?

No. Students in the Accelerated Honors Program are expected to master the same concepts and methods as all other students in the major program. The Accelerated Honors Program creates opportunities for students to explore those concepts in greater depth and/or to apply the knowledge that they are learning to questions of individual interest. Many students find the opportunity to guide their own studies liberating and less stressful than the completion of standard departmental courses.

When do I need to begin working on my distinction project proposal?

Distinction proposals must be approved by the project mentor, department head, and Director of the Honors College prior to the beginning of your senior year. Students often take honors courses in the major during the final four semesters, so we strongly encourage you to begin working upon your proposal five semesters prior to your graduation (spring of sophomore year, which may be in year one for some students).

I am not sure how to begin planning for my distinction proposal. How should I get started?

We recommend that students begin exploring their interests by completing the following exercises:

1. Meet with the Director of the Honors College in order to discuss your interests.
2. Meet with your major advisor in order to discuss your interests and opportunities within your home department.

May I opt out of the Accelerated Honors Program?

Students entering the Honors College are assigned to either the General Honors Program or to the Accelerated Honors Program based upon college-level course work completed prior to entry. Requests for exceptions to the Honors College policies outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog must be submitted in writing to the Director of the Honors College.