

Welcome to the Honors College: A First-Year Student's Guide



2023-2024

-Honors College Mission

The mission of the Missouri State University Honors College is to create an academic environment that is stimulating, challenging, and conducive to undergraduate learning and development. The Honors College fosters this environment by:

- ❖ Attracting exceptional students from Missouri, the U.S., and around the world who have a demonstrated record of intellectual curiosity and academic success;
- ❖ Matching students with outstanding faculty instructors in small course settings that foster collaboration, engagement, and discourse;
- ❖ Developing critical thinking skills through a rigorous program of multi and interdisciplinary instruction with an emphasis upon research and academic writing;
- ❖ Supporting the university's Public Affairs mission by complementing the classroom experience with academic and social programming that promotes leadership, service, and the life of the mind;
- ❖ Providing high levels of mentoring, advising, and development through individualized attention throughout a student's program of study;
- ❖ Preparing students for career success, graduate study, and competition for graduate and international research fellowships and awards.

-Snapshot of the Honors College Community

The Class of 2027 is expected to include over 250 students from eleven states.

You are joining a learning community that includes 700 undergraduate students. Here is a quick look at the Honors College student population:

- ❖ Average Cumulative GPA: 3.78;
- ❖ Students Qualifying for Dean's List: 530;
- ❖ 148 Academic Majors and Concentrations represented;

The Honors College recruits the best faculty instructors and researchers at the university in order to provide students with the strongest possible educational experience. Since 2008, 193 professors, representing 31 academic departments and 6 undergraduate colleges, have offered honors courses in their areas of specialization. Many of these professors also serve as honors advisors for students majoring in their subject fields. You will begin building personal and academic relationships with these professors in Fall 2023.

The staff of the Honors College is available to assist you with your transition to the university and with all of your academic needs:

-  **John F. Chuchiak, IV, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Professor of Colonial Latin American History & Director of the Honors College
-  **Scott E. Handley, M.A.**, Assistant Director & Academic Advisor
-  **Molly K. Del Rossi, B.A.**, Academic Advisor
-  **Casondra S. Prock, B.A., B.S.**, Program Administrator

-Honors College Academic Requirements

Students admitted to the Honors College will be assigned to either the *General Honors Program* or the *Accelerated Honors Program*, based upon college-level course work completed prior to entry.

Assignments will be made throughout Summer and Fall 2023 as your transcripts and score reports arrive at the university.

1. General Honors Program

Most students will enter the General Honors Program, which is designed for students who enter the Honors College with fewer than 30 completed credit hours (AP, Dual Credit, or similar work). The program includes courses designed to facilitate completion of both general education and major requirements.

A. General Honors Core Curriculum (7 courses, minimum 18 credits)

1. UHC 110 *Freshman Honors Seminar* (2 cr.);
2. 3 General Honors courses to be selected from a menu of Honors College offerings (9-15 cr.). Course lists are published on the Honors College website each semester. In a typical year, the Honors College offers 30+ courses in up to 20 academic disciplines.
3. 1 Honors Experiential Learning Experience (1-3 cr.):
 - a. UHC 300 *Honors Service Learning*
 - b. UHC 350 *Honors Study Abroad*
 - c. UHC 396 *Honors Independent Study*

d. UHC 398 *Honors Undergraduate Research*

e. UHC 399 *Honors Internship/Apprenticeship*

4. UHC 397 *Honors Colloquium* (3 cr.);

5. UHC 410 *Senior Honors Seminar* (3 cr.)

Students who complete all General Honors Core Curriculum requirements and earn a final institutional GPA of 3.25 or higher are eligible to graduate from the Honors College after they satisfy all other University degree requirements. Final transcripts and diplomas will include the notation "Bachelor of _____ (with possible grade point honors such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, *summa cum laude*) in the Honors College."

B. Distinction in the Major Option (minimum 12 credits)

Students who complete the Core Curriculum have the opportunity to continue their honors studies and to earn Distinction in the Major by self-designing a rigorous program of course work culminating in a final distinction project. Students must complete a minimum of 12 credits of honors course work in their major, including a minimum of 3 credits of UHC 499 *Honors Distinction Project*. Students may propose appropriate combinations of the following courses:

1. UHC 396 *Honors Independent Study* (1-3 cr.);

2. UHC 398 *Honors Undergraduate Research* (1-3 Cr.);

3. UHC 410 *Senior Honors Seminar* (3 cr.);

4. UHC 499 *Honors Distinction Project* (3-4 cr.)

*Students who have completed the General Honors Core Curriculum may double-count one section of UHC 396, UHC 398, or UHC 410 towards the Distinction in the Major requirements.

Students interested in earning Distinction in the Major must complete a course and project proposal under the guidance of a faculty member in their major department. The proposal must be approved by the Department Head for the major and by the Director of the Honors College before a student may register for honors course sections. Distinction proposals must be approved prior to the end of the student's second year.

The Honors Distinction Project must be submitted to the Honors College on the final day of classes prior to a student's graduation.

Students who complete all General Honors Core Curriculum requirements, all Distinction in the Major requirements, and earn a final institutional GPA of 3.25 or

higher are eligible to graduate from the Honors College after they satisfy all other University degree requirements. Final transcripts and diplomas will include the notation "Bachelor of _____ (with possible grade point honors such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, *summa cum laude*) in the Honors College with Distinction in _____."

2. Accelerated Honors Program (minimum 19 credits)

The Accelerated Honors Program is designed for students who enter the Honors College with 30 or more completed credit hours (AP, Dual Credit, Transfer Credit). 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, facilitating early graduation for students who wish it. Students must complete the following requirements:

1. Completion of one of the following Honors elements:

- a. All first-time in college students, regardless of class standing, must complete UHC 110 *Freshman Honors Seminar* (2 cr.). This course satisfies the University's First-Year Foundations General Education requirement and must be completed during the first semester of study;
- b. Transfer students and MSU students admitted to the Honors College after completing GEP 101 *First-Year Foundations* must complete 1 General Honors course or 1 Honors Experiential Learning course of their choice (see General Honors Program Section A above).

2. UHC 397 *Honors Colloquium* (3 cr.);

3. UHC 410 *Senior Honors Seminar* (3 cr.);

4. Students must complete a minimum of 12 credits of honors course work in their major, including a minimum of 3 credits of UHC 499 *Honors Distinction Project*. Students may propose appropriate combinations of the following courses:

1. UHC 396 *Honors Independent Study* (1-3 cr.);
2. UHC 398 *Honors Undergraduate Research* (1-3 Cr.);
3. UHC 499 *Honors Distinction Project* (3-4 cr.)

Students must complete a course and distinction project proposal under the guidance of a faculty member in their major department. The proposal must be approved by the Department Head for the major and by the Director of the Honors College before a student may register for honors course sections. Distinction proposals must be approved prior to the ending of a student's second year.

The Honors Distinction Project must be submitted to the Honors College on the final day of classes prior to a student's graduation.

Students who complete all Accelerated Honors Program requirements and earn a final institutional GPA of 3.25 or higher are eligible to graduate from the Honors College after they satisfy all other University degree requirements. Final transcripts and diplomas will include the notation "Bachelor of _____ (with possible grade point honors such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, *summa cum laude*) in the Honors College with Distinction in _____."

Additional Requirements & Regulations

- A. In order to remain in good standing in the program, a student must maintain a 3.25 cumulative institutional GPA or higher and enroll in 12 or more credit hours per semester. Members should normally carry no more than two honors classes in any one semester and must take at least one honors class each semester until they have completed the General Honors Core Curriculum. Students who complete the General Honors Core Curriculum maintain good standing in the program by maintaining a 3.25 cumulative institutional GPA.
- B. The Director of the Honors College will review the academic progress of all students at the end of each semester. Students who do not achieve the required 3.25 cumulative institutional GPA will be given one semester to achieve that level, provided it is mathematically possible. Students who cannot achieve a 3.25 cumulative institutional GPA or who fail to reach a 3.25 for two consecutive semesters will be ineligible to continue in the program. Students who are removed from the program may apply for readmission after one semester if their academic performance satisfies program requirements. Students who are removed from the program a second time are not eligible for readmission.

-Scholarship Renewal Requirements

Almost all Honors College students have an academic scholarship that includes specific renewal criteria:

Presidential

Renewal criteria: Complete 27 Missouri State credit hours each academic year with a 3.50 cumulative Missouri State grade point average.

Board of Governors

Renewal criteria: Complete 27 Missouri State credit hours each academic year with a 3.25 cumulative Missouri State grade point average.

Provost

Renewal criteria: Complete 27 Missouri State credit hours each academic year with a 3.25 cumulative Missouri State grade point average.

-How advising in the Honors College Works

All undecided Honors students receive specialized advisement from the Honors College. The Assistant Director, Scott Handley, is a full-time advisor and is always willing to help any student. The Honors College also has a graduate assistant who has been through Master Advisor training and takes on advisement appointments.

Once students have declared a major either in the Honors College office or another department, they are assigned primary advisors in the department of their major. The primary advisors are usually Honors professors unless the department has their own advisement center. Visiting the Honors College office can still be helpful in fulfilling any other Honors needs. We love getting to know our students and helping them beyond scheduling, majors, and careers by presenting the many other opportunities the Missouri State campus can provide.

Students with **fewer than 75 hours** must visit their advisor at least once per semester for registration clearance. We suggest continuing to see your advisor until you graduate to ensure everything is on track.

Students can complete a variety of tasks in the Honors College office, including:

- 🏛️ Declare/change major/minor;
- 🏛️ Meet with an Academic Advisor for registration clearance (undeclared students);
- 🏛️ Request permission for a registration/course overload (permission for 18+ credits);
- 🏛️ Request permission to extend the timeline for completing Honors requirements;
- 🏛️ Register for an Honors component as part of the Departmental Distinction process;
- 🏛️ Apply for approval to pursue Departmental Distinction.

-Honors Students are Encouraged to Pursue Special Opportunities, such as:

- 🏛️ *LOGOS: A Journal of Undergraduate Research*
- 🏛️ Study Away
- 🏛️ Service-Learning
- 🏛️ Internships
- 🏛️ Research Opportunities
- 🏛️ Conferences
- 🏛️ Fellowships
- 🏛️ Academic Honor Societies

-Resources & Contact Information

Personnel:

John F. Chuchiak, IV, Ph.D., Director
Scott Handley, M.A., Assistant Director
Casondra Prock, B.A., B.S., Program Administrator
Molly Del Rossi, B.A., Academic Advisor

Address:

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Missouri State University
901 South National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65897

Business Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Phone Numbers:

Office: 417-836-6370 Fax: 417-836-3141

Internet Resources:

Email: honorscollege@missouristate.edu

Website: www.missouristate.edu/honors

Facebook: www.facebook.com/honors-college-at-missouri-state-university