

Honors Program

Dr. Benjamin C. Withers, Ph.D., is Director of the Honors Program.

The Honors Program at UK serves an important function in the University's commitment to excellence in undergraduate education. Through its special curriculum and related academic activities, the Program provides an unusual course of instruction for outstanding, highly motivated students.

Selection of Honors Students

Because the Honors Program seeks students of demonstrated high academic promise, admission to Honors is competitive. A student must complete the application form for the Honors Program. Entering students ideally have an outstanding high school grade-point average (3.5 unweighted GPA or better, as demonstrated by transcript of through at least the first half of senior year) and a documented composite score of 28 or above on the ACT or 1270 or above on the SAT. The Admissions Committee considers

all aspects of an applicant's record; a student's test scores and GPA are only two of the factors considered. The Admissions Committee also considers the academic rigor of high school courses the applicant has taken. In addition, the Admissions Committee places great weight on the strength of the application essays, as well as the evidence they provide of motivation to accept the challenges of Honors and contribute to the program.

Students whose academic performance may vary (high GPA and lower test scores, for example) or who have talents and motivation that are not reflected in standardized testing procedures are invited to make their best case for admission to the Honors Program and to solicit recommendations from supportive teachers or supervisors.

Upper-division students at UK or transfer students with one semester or more of academic study at a college or university may apply to the Honors Program. They submit a copy of their college transcripts along with the materials re-

quested of first-year students. All applicants must demonstrate strong academic performance at the college level (3.0 GPA or better).

The Honors Curriculum

An Honors education at UK opens up an exciting world of inquiry, including research, education abroad, and service that will challenge students intellectually, provide access to the most creative minds at UK, and prepare participants for advanced study and to make a difference in the world upon graduation. The Honors curriculum requires Honors course work in UK Core Inquiry, participation in at least two for-credit Honors Experiences, a Senior Capstone, and a choice of course work campus-wide to fulfill the educational goals of the Honors student. There are Honors course expectations across the academic career of the student, opportunities for residential experiences in Honors Living Learning Communities, particularly during the first two years, academic flexibility, and enhanced advising and cocurricular opportunities.



Program Requirements

1. Each Honors student must complete at least **15 hours** in Honors courses.

Six Credit Hours

Students choose least **two** Honors courses in the Intellectual Inquiry that also satisfy UK Core requirements:

- HON 151 (fulfills the Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities)
- HON 152 (fulfills the Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural/Physical/Mathematical Sciences)
- HON 251 (fulfills the Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences)
- HON 252 (fulfills the Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity)
- or Honors courses/sections in existing UK Core courses

Three Credit Hours

Senior Honors Capstone:

- HON 398
- or college/departmental equivalent

Six Credit Hours

Students choose **two** from:

- departmental and disciplinary Honors courses and sections
- any 300-level Honors course (not to include HON 398)
- a graduate course that meets the needs and interests of the student*

**Program pre-approval required.*

2. Each Honors student must complete **one** course in Composition and Communication.

Three Credit Hours

Students complete a designated section of accelerated Composition and Communication.

3. Each Honors student must complete **two** Honors Experiences.

Students choose two experiences (may opt to do the same experience multiple times):

- Education Abroad
- Service Learning or Community Outreach
- Undergraduate Research Experience (HON 352, 395, or 399, or equivalent Honors course in the major)
- alternate opportunities*

**Other activities may also qualify, such as serving as an Undergraduate Instructional Assistant in a course, or other activities agreed on in advance with the Director of the Honors Program.*

4. Honors students must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Probationary status will be granted to Honors students falling below this threshold who can reasonably be expected to raise their GPA back to a 3.00 prior to graduation. Students who have not removed themselves from probationary status after two semesters will be required to leave the program.

SUGGESTED FOUR YEAR PLAN

First Year 9 Credit Hours

One Honors course in UK Core:
 Inquiry each semester 6 hours total
 Honors Composition and Communication
 in either semester 3 hours total

Second Year 3-6 Credit Hours

One Honors course
 One Honors experience

Third Year 3-6 Credit Hours

One Honors course
 One Honors experience

Fourth Year 3 Hours

HON 398 Senior Capstone

Graduating with Honors in the Program

To graduate with a Certificate of Honors in the Honors Program and have this designation on the final UK transcript and diploma, students must complete the requirements described above.

Special Opportunities

Students in the Honors Program have many opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, to develop and demonstrate academic excellence. The small class size and method of instruction in Honors courses foster active learning. Informal conferences, special speakers, trips, and workshops allow students to explore topics and issues not regularly considered within University departmental offerings.

Students in the program may elect to live in Patterson Hall, a study and community oriented, co-ed Honors residence hall equipped with seminar rooms and library.

Other social, service, and cultural activities organized by and for Honors students include the Honors Program Student Advisory Council or HPSC (social and service activities), and *JAR*, the campus literary magazine published by Honors Program students. Students may also participate in the Journal Project, for which they keep a journal during their undergraduate career, sharing the journal with a staff member, administrator, or faculty member who volunteers as an advisor.

Honors students receive an Arts & Events Passport, granting free admission to cultural programming in all four years.

Honors students in good standing are eligible for a number of special grants and scholarships during and at the conclusion of their undergraduate career. These include scholarships based on financial need, grants to support independent research conducted in the U.S. or abroad, scholarships to support study-travel for members of the Journal Project, the Diachun Award for students continuing studies in graduate school, and several other literary, service, and book awards.

Benefits

The greatest benefits Honors Program students enjoy are intensified intellectual development and a heightened personal awareness of the individual's place in his or her culture. A high percentage of graduates of the Honors Program enter graduate or professional schools, and move on to successful careers.

How To Apply

For an application, contact:

Director, Honors Program
355 Patterson Office Tower
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0027
(859) 257-3111
e-mail: HONPROG@uky.edu
www.uky.edu/Honors/
fax: (859) 257-6428

The application deadline is January 15. Contact the Honors Program for more information.