University of Kentucky Honors Program

New Student Handbook

Honors Program Pledge of Excellence:

As a member of the University of Kentucky Honors Program, I dedicate myself to intellectual inquiry, lifelong learning, and critical thinking. I pledge to demonstrate personal and academic integrity both in and outside of the classroom. I pledge to always be willing to engage my peers in earnest and respectful discussion with an open mind.
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Honors Program
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Philosophy and Purpose of the Honors Program

The University of Kentucky Honors Program plays a vital role in the University's commitment to excellence in undergraduate education. Representing every major and college at UK and through its special multidisciplinary curriculum, the Honors Program provides an alternative course of instruction for outstanding, highly motivated students. An Honors education at UK opens up a world of inquiry including research, education abroad, and service that challenge students intellectually, provide access to the most creative minds at UK, and prepare students for advanced study in order to make a difference in the world upon graduation. Our students are drawn here from around the state, region, country and the world. When they graduate, they will join prestigious organizations or choose to further their education at universities around the world.

The Honors Program offers multidisciplinary, small-format classes which also satisfy UK Core requirements in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts & Creativity, and Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Our curriculum provides an active-learning, academic experience to students whose intellectual and developmental levels lead them to search for connections among ideas they encounter in the classroom and in the world around them. To enhance our curriculum, the Honors Program sponsors programming throughout our campus, in our residence hall, and off campus with community partners. The Honors Program facilitates advanced undergraduate learning through scholarships and grants for student travel, research and skills development.

Our Students

Honors students are high achievers who are extremely motivated, actively involved, and have diverse backgrounds, career interests and majors. They come from the Kentucky region, the Midwest, across the United States and from around the world. Most Honors students are first-year freshman who have just graduated from high school, while some are transfer students or those seeking a second Bachelor’s Degree. Honors students represent all colleges and most undergraduate majors on campus.

Our Curriculum

The Honors Program at UK provides a rigorous course of instruction for outstanding students. Each Honors student completes at least 21 hours of Honors courses in a flexible curriculum. Courses include small-group seminars with leading faculty in the arts and humanities and the social, natural and physical sciences and innovative courses from disciplines from across the university’s undergraduate colleges. A senior capstone or thesis that brings focus to students’ learning is the final piece of our students’ undergraduate academic journeys.

Additionally, Honors students have exciting opportunities to participate in Honors Education Abroad, Honors Research, and Honors Service Learning to complete program requirements.
Benefits of Being an Honors Student

The most important benefit of completing the Honors Program is the ability to demonstrate to future employers or graduate school admissions decision-makers that you sought out and completed a program designed to challenge you both academically and intellectually. Completing the Honors Program is a significant accomplishment that students should list on the resume or curriculum vitae.

The benefits while being in the program include:

- Priority registration for all courses
- Honors advising in addition to major course of study advising
- Faculty and student peer mentoring
- The Honors Living Learning Program that offers specialized and unique opportunities for intellectual and personal growth
- Education Abroad for every discipline to a wide choice of destinations
- The chance to conduct research with world-class scholars, scientists or artists as an undergraduate
- Extracurricular activities and events specifically designed for Honors Program students
- Small class sizes encourage vivid discussions and enable Honors Students to get to know their professors who can provide letters of recommendation that speak to the quality of their character as well as their academic performance as a result of small class interaction
- Individualized preparation for nationally competitive scholarship opportunities, such as the Rhodes Scholarship, Truman Scholars, and Fulbright Fellowships

Honors Courses and UK Core Requirements

First Year Honors courses are designed to satisfy UK Core requirements:

- HON 151: Inquiry in the Humanities
- HON 152: Inquiry in the Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences
- HON 251: Inquiry in the Social Sciences
- HON 252: Inquiry in the Arts and Creativity

Additionally, many Honors sections in departmental courses will satisfy UK Core requirements as well. When choosing Honors courses it is a good idea to select a course that will fulfill a UK Core, pre-major, or major requirement. For example, students with majors in the sciences can benefit from taking MA 114 “Honors Calculus II” and/or CHE 107 “Honors General Chemistry II” so that the course counts for the major as well as Honors at the same time.

Because many Honors students arrive with a great deal of credit already earned for UK Core and college-level requirements, they can and should approach their first year Honors requirements with a spirit of adventure. Honors seminars can be a great way to explore new and innovative topics while earning elective credit. However, an important goal of the Honors curricula is to broaden the student’s academic experience, so students may be advised to explore courses outside of core requirements needed.
Honors Program Requirements

The Honors Program requires completion of 15 credit hours of Honors Courses and 6 credit hours of Honors Experiences for a total of 21 credit hours. Additionally, Honors students complete CIS/WRD 112 “Accelerated Composition and Communication” to satisfy Composition and Communication I and II of the UK Core requirements.

6 credit hours of Honors Courses chosen from (Freshman year course options):

- HON 151, 152, 251, 252 (may be taken during student’s first year only)
- Honors-designated sections of department courses

CIS/WRD 112 “Accelerated Composition and Communication”

- Students satisfying Composition and Communication I & II with transfer courses or through alternative means will not be required to complete CIS/WRD 112. Students with transfer courses satisfying only part of Composition and Communication I and II have the option to complete the remaining courses needed at UK or through CIS/WRD 112.

6 credit hours of Honors Courses chosen from (Sophomore/Junior year course options):

Any combination of the following options or two of the same option is acceptable:

- HON 301
- Honors-designated sections of department courses
- Convert a non-Honors course for Honors credit using the Honors Course Conversion process
- Graduate courses numbered 500-level and above or 400-level courses with G suffix (course syllabus required along with student/professor agreement to complete graduate-level course requirements)

6 credit hours of Honors Experiences chosen from:

- Education Abroad (HON 352 or other approved course)
- Research (any 395 or 495 course or other approved course)
- Experiential Learning (any 396, 397, 398, 399, 497, 498, 499 or other approved course)

3 credit hours (Senior Year):

- Honors Senior Capstone – HON 398 or approved course (may be completed through coursework in student’s major)

Suggested 4-Year Plan

Freshman Year:

- 2 Honors Courses – choose from HON 151, 152, 251, 252 or Honors-designated sections of department courses
- CIS/WRD 112 “Accelerated Composition and Communication” – satisfies Composition & Communication I & II

Sophomore/Junior Years:

- 2 Honors Courses – choose from HON 301, Honors-designated sections of department courses, graduate courses, or by converting non-Honors courses for Honors credit using the Honors Course Conversion process
- 6 credit hours of Honors Experiences – choose from Education Abroad, Research, of Experiential Learning

Senior Year:

- Honors Senior Capstone – HON 398 or approved course (may be completed through coursework in student’s major)
Honors Experiences

Three Paths

The Honors curriculum requires completion of 6 credit hours of Honors Experiences. Options for completing Honors Experience credit include:

**Undergraduate Research**
HON 395, equivalent course in your major/minor (e.g. BIO 395), or by approval.

The Honors Program is dedicated to cultivating student scholars at the university. To that end, all students are encouraged to participate in undergraduate research in their majors or areas of interest. Honors students will find considerable program support for finding faculty mentors, developing research proposals, and finding venues in which to showcase the results of their research. Students are encouraged to visit the Office for Undergraduate Research for assistance with finding a faculty mentor for research.

Most Honors students who complete research present their work at the Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars, the Kentucky Honors Roundtable, the National Conference of Undergraduate Research, or other regional and national research conferences within relevant fields. Moreover, many Honors students publish their research as sole or first authors in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. Note: Students wishing to register for HON 395 instead of a department course must submit a research proposal to Brad Hubbard (brad.hubbard@uky.edu) for approval by the Add Course deadline.

**Education Abroad**
HON 352, equivalent course in your major/minor, or by approval.

The Honors Program believes that international educational experiences are crucial for students to become well-rounded citizens of the world, and we strongly encourage students to investigate opportunities through the Education Abroad Office. Education Abroad experiences can suit any major, area of interest, duration, or desired level of language immersion. Additionally, the Honors Program is excited to be able to offer faculty-led travel courses in which students may enroll to complete program requirements through the course designation HON 352. Currently, Honors offers travel experiences to France and Italy (summer), Paris (summer), and Ecuador (summer).

**Experiential Learning**
EXP 396, EXP 397, HON 399, equivalent course in your major/minor, or by approval.

Experiential Learning is designed to assist in connecting students and employers in developing career- and service-related learning opportunities in internship, cooperative education (co-op), or externship experiences. The classifications vary depending on the academic discipline. All positions are professional in nature, carefully supervised and structured so that the student sets intentional learning goals and actively reflects on what he/she has learned. Many of the majors at UK have experiential learning courses included. Please consult and Honors Advisor for information about these courses. Note: currently, HON 399 is reserved for students serving as Honors Program Peer Mentors or serving as Honors Interns. Students interested in individual service for credit should contact Cindy Edwards with the Stuckert Career Center to discuss credit-bearing options (cindy.edwards@uky.edu).
Senior Capstone Requirement

Honors students are required to complete an Honors Senior Capstone requirement designed to round out your educational experience at UK. The goal of the Honors Senior Capstone requirement is for the student to be able to demonstrate the ability to propose, examine and evaluate an intellectual problem, as well as the ability to carry out the project and present results with competence. The Honors Senior Capstone requirement is scholarly in nature. Archival or library research, field research, laboratory research, or creative projects are all acceptable modes of inquiry.

Several majors on campus require a capstone course. Whenever possible, it is recommended students complete the Honors Senior Capstone requirement in conjunction with their major department to satisfy both major and Honors requirements. Some students pursue completion of the capstone in a department other than their major where they find a subject of particular interest, or even combine several disciplines for a project which falls outside of departmental divisions.

The Honors Program has partnered with the William T. Young Library’s UKnowledge digital archive system that enables undergraduate scholars to digitally publish their Honors Senior Capstone requirement. Honors students will be required to include their completed capstone projects in the Honors Program Senior Capstone Collection unless their research is part of a larger body of research that their faculty mentor does not want released publicly. The benefits of including capstones in the UKnowledge digital archive include:

- official recognition by the University of the student’s knowledge and capability to conduct research, and is reflective of a quality education at University of Kentucky.
- students can include this information on their resume or curriculum vitae which can help with obtaining future jobs or entrance to graduate school.
- increased notoriety for the student and faculty mentor.

GPA Requirements

Honors students are required to maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. Occasionally Honors students will earn a low grade in a course or two which can lower their cumulative GPA to below 3.0. When this happens, the student is placed on Probation within the Honors Program, but will still remain active in the Honors Program while we work with him or her to develop strategies for academic success. If the student’s semester GPA is below 3.0 but their cumulative GPA is above 3.0, they are not placed on Probation.

In most cases, it is external, non-academic factors which can contribute to poor academic performance. When a student is placed on Probation within the Honors Program, the student attends a meeting with the Honors Program Director of Student Services, Meg Marquis, who will work with the student to determine what problems exist and what solutions to employ. Students are required to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or above within one semester in order to remain active in the Honors Program. Additional semesters of probation may be offered on a case-by-case basis.
Living Learning Program

The Honors Living Learning Program (LLP) is a residential experience that allows students who are members of UK’s Honors Program to participate in their collaborative learning in a supportive and close-knit environment. Students who participate in the Honors LLP receive targeted residential programming intended to enhance the scholarly experience. Through increased interaction with faculty inside and outside of the classroom, students are immersed into a stimulating intellectual and social environment that promotes and supports student success.

Student Profile

The Honors Living Learning Program is looking for highly motivated, academic-orientated, first year students who have been accepted into the Honors Program at UK. All academic majors and disciplines are accepted, creating an academically diverse living environment.

Learning Outcomes

Through participation in the Honors Living Learning Program, a student will develop the following:

- The ability to define what student success means for them at the end of their first two semesters of college.
- The ability to identify campus resources for student success (e.g. Career Center, Counseling and Testing, Office of Undergraduate Research, Education Abroad).
- An appreciation for campus life.

Location

All students who participate in the Honors LLP will reside in Central Residence Hall located in the central campus area near the William T. Young Library.

Connected Courses

There are no courses formally connected to the Honors LLP at this time though such courses are being developed and most courses are held in the Central Hall classrooms. As a member of the Honors Living Learning Program, students will have the opportunity to live with other students taking many of the same Honors classes and attending the same Honors functions.

Programs

Students who enroll in the Honors Living Learning Program can expect to participate in programs in and outside of the residence hall such as:

- workshops on preparing for Graduate School and Internships
- seminars on preparing for the job search
- meet-and-greet events with campus faculty and staff
- community service opportunities
- stress relief programs
- tutoring/study sessions
Education Abroad Programs

Education Abroad at UK offers a variety of programs that allow you to pursue Honors courses and experiences in an international setting. Immerse yourself in another culture and explore what the world has to offer with any one of the exciting opportunities available to you. Education Abroad is an especially meaningful way for outstanding students to enhance their Honors journey. Honors students tend to complete education abroad experiences in greater numbers than their non-Honors peers at UK. The variety of choices offered by UK’s Education Abroad office enable a student to study abroad, research abroad or intern abroad.

Honors-Approved Education Abroad Programs

Honors students can study abroad through any program offered by the Education Abroad office and earn Honors Experience credit provided their choice is approved by the Honors Program Student Services Director. Your choice of location and education program does not have to be directly related to your major, minor, or Honors, though we do recommend students choose a location to satisfy degree requirements while abroad. You choose an Honors-approved Education Abroad option, choose form major/minor options using an Education Abroad MAP, or choose one that is of personal interest. Make an appointment to meet with your Honors Academic Advisor for more guidance.

Why Study Abroad?

As an Honors student, the best way to expand your knowledge and skills is to immerse yourself in diverse cultures and environments. There is no substitute for the experience that a semester, year, summer, or winter abroad will give you.

Education Abroad can help you:

- Globalize your view
- Expand your intercultural understanding and problem-solving skills
- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Gain new insight into the world and yourself
- Improve your language skills

How can I afford to study abroad?

Education Abroad offers a variety of scholarships for students interested in studying abroad. These scholarships range from $500 - $1500. Attend one of the information sessions on scholarships or visit the Education Abroad website for more information. The Honors Program also has scholarships that can be used to support Education Abroad, specifically, the Kate Johnson Scholarship.

Additionally, most UK financial aid applies toward the cost of studying abroad. Check with your financial aid advisor for more information.

Finally, there are several education abroad programs that are comparable to the cost of attending UK. So, with a little bit of planning, if you can afford to attend UK, you can afford to study abroad. Students only pay for 1 credit hour of tuition to maintain full-time status while studying abroad. Additional costs include the program fee and spending money. Scholarships and Pell Grant funds can be used toward costs associated with studying abroad.
Research Opportunities

The Honors Program is dedicated to cultivating student scholars at the university. To that end, all students are encouraged to engage in undergraduate research in their majors or areas of interest, and especially to do so in the context of their Honors Senior Capstone requirement to complete Honors coursework.

Honors students will find considerable program support for finding faculty mentors, developing research proposals, and finding venues in which to showcase the results of their research. We encourage all Honors students performing research to visit the Office of Undergraduate Research for guidance and assistance with finding available research opportunities, a faculty mentor, and resources that serve to support your research efforts. The Office of Undergraduate Research also has scholarships and grants available to student researchers.

Most Honors students who complete research present their work at the Showcase for Undergraduate Scholars, the Kentucky Honors Roundtable, the National Conference of Undergraduate Research, or other regional and national academic conferences in the relevant fields. Moreover, many Honors students publish their research as sole or first authors in peer-reviewed scholarly journals.

Academy for Undergraduate Excellence

Honors Program – The Honors Program is proud to be one of many Programs of Excellence on UK’s campus, which highlight a range of additional opportunities for curious, engaged and globally-aware student-citizens.

Office of Undergraduate Research – Dedicated to providing coordination, leadership and support for the varied programs at the University of Kentucky designed to encourage, engage, and support the undergraduate research enterprise, thus enhancing the overall academic experience and future success of our students. The office is the starting point for any undergraduate student desiring to include mentored research in their undergraduate experience. Services include pairing of student researchers with faculty mentors, research assistance, support programs, and further training in research presentation.

Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence – The mission of this program is to advance the University of Kentucky’s commitment to three broad areas: student excellence, teaching excellence, and program excellence. The Chellgren Center assists students in realizing their highest academic potential; inspiring progressive reform and innovation in teaching, learning, and curriculum development; and fostering creative and productive collaborations across the many programs and departments engaged in the undergraduate mission. Services include the Chellgren Student Fellows Program, Discovery Seminar Program, the Academic Enrichment Toolkit, and administrative support for two honors societies, Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi.

Gaines Center for the Humanities – Functions as a laboratory for imaginative and innovative education on the University of Kentucky's campus. Devoted to cultivating an appreciation of the humanities in its students and faculty, the Center embraces varied paths of knowledge, and particularly strives to integrate creative work with traditional academic learning. They offer competitive fellowship opportunities designed to enrich the undergraduate experience in the humanities as well as programs like the Bale Boone Symposium, Breathitt Lectureship, and several others.

The Office of External Scholarships – Assist students with applying for scholarship and fellowship awards from sources outside the University of Kentucky, including non-profit groups, government agencies, and companies. Criteria for scholarships vary but generally include academic performance, financial need, community affiliations, and unique elements important to the sponsoring organization. Assistance is provided to students applying for scholarships that require University endorsement including the Fulbright Award and the Rhodes Scholarship.
Scholarships and Awards

Please visit the Honors Program website to apply for any of the scholarship and awards listed below.

**Research Grant**
This grant is intended to support the anticipated work-related expenses of the Independent Project such as photocopying, purchasing materials, and research-related travel. Grants of various amounts will be awarded.

*Available:* Fall or Spring semester  
*Deadlines:* March 1st for Fall and November 1st for Spring

**Kate Johnson Scholarship**
This scholarship helps to enable Honors Program students to participate in activities to develop skills or to participate in some type of field-based academic effort. It is intended to offset the costs of research opportunities, education abroad experiences, conference travel, or summer programs.

*Available:* Summer or Fall semester  
*Deadline:* March 1st

**Journal Journey Travel Scholarship**
The Honors Program offers two $750 summer scholarships to students who have participated in the Journal/Journey Project in the preceding academic year. These scholarships will allow the recipients to travel during the summer on a trip of their own design while keeping a special “travel journal.” Travel does not need to be tied to earning formal academic credit.

*Available:* Summer only  
*Deadline:* March 1st

**Student Skills Development Award**
This award helps to enable Honors Program students to participate in some type of field-based academic effort. Awards of various amounts will be awarded.

*Available:* Fall or Spring semester  
*Deadlines:* March 1st for Fall and November 1st for Spring

**Diachun Award**
Awarded to a graduating senior who has “demonstrated outstanding research talent in the form of his/her Independent Project and who holds high promise for further professional development in graduate school.” This $1000 award is to be used for expenses in graduate or professional school.

*Available:* Summer only  
*Deadline:* March 1st

**Raymond Betts Crystal Award**
Given to a UK Honors Student for outstanding service to the Honors Program and the University of Kentucky community at large. Must be nominated by students, faculty, or staff.

*Available:* Spring semester  
*Deadline:* March 1st
Mentoring Programs

Extensive peer-to-peer mentoring is available to help first-year students navigate the waters of the Honors Program and UK in general. The Honors Program has three Peer Mentor roles: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Applications for Peer Mentor positions are accepted in the spring semester to fill these positions for the following academic year (Fall/Spring). Information about applying for these positions will be sent out via the Honors Program listserv each spring term.

Bronze Peer Mentor

The Bronze Peer Mentors (BPM) will aid in facilitating student engagement and academic success in the Honors Program at the University of Kentucky by mentoring an incoming freshman Honors student. New Honors students are encouraged to sign up for Honors Program Mentoring, in which they are matched with an upperclassman BPM to get guidance on their scholarly journeys, as well as gain a social connection. Mentoring partners attend two or more Honors-sponsored events together each semester, have twice-a-year coffee “dates” to catch up, and enjoy a program-wide pizza party each semester.

Silver Living Learning Peer Mentor

The Silver Living Learning Peer Mentor (SLLPM) will aid in facilitating student learning and academic success in the Honors Program Living Learning Program. The SLLPM is a valued and important member of our Living Learning Program (LLP) and the residence hall staff. The SLLPM will be jointly supervised by both the Residential Hall Director and the Honors Program Director of Student Services.

Gold Living Learning Peer Mentor

The Gold Living Learning Peer mentor (GLLPM) will aid in facilitating student learning and academic success in the Honors Program Living Learning Program. The GLLPM with Teaching Assistant Focus is a valued and important member of our Living Learning Program (LLP) and the residence hall staff. The GLLPM will be jointly managed by both the Residential Hall Director and the Honors Program faculty member with whom they contract with.
Ambassadors

The Honors Program Ambassador Team (HPAT) is a group of dedicated, knowledgeable Honors Program students at UK. Ambassadors perform the following functions in support of UK’s Honors Program:

- Provide outreach and peer-to-peer advice to prospective students.
- Attend recruiting events such as UK Preview Nights, Come See Blue for Yourself, and Merit weekend.

For more information please visit our [website](#) – the call for applications goes out in the Spring semester of each year.

Student Council

The Honors Program Student Council (HPSC) is the student organization that serves in an advisory capacity to the Honors Program, and also provides a broad range of social and community service opportunities to HP students.

HPSC does an extraordinary job every year raising money for DanceBlue, University of Kentucky’s annual 24-hour dance marathon benefiting the Golden Matrix Fund of UK’s Pediatric Oncology Clinic. HPSC also hosts an annual Summer Luau for new incoming students.

Students interested in joining HPSC may do so by contacting any of the 2014-2015 officers:

- **President:** Victor Amelang (victor.amelang009@gmail.com)
- **Vice President:** Sarah Coffman (sarah.coffman@uky.edu)
- **Treasurer:** Hannah Latta (hlla223@g.uky.edu)
- **Secretary:** Amena Khan (arkh223@g.uky.edu)

Communications

**E-mail** – The Honors Program will send out important information to you via e-mail. We have an Honors Program listserv e-mail system and all incoming freshman students are added to that system with their official UK e-mail account. Make sure to read all e-mail communications from the Honors Program so you are aware of events and important announcements.

**Weekly Tidings** – A Weekly Tidings e-mail newsletter will be sent out via the listserv every Friday about Honors Events, goings-on and good news in the Honors community.

**Facebook/Twitter** – Our Facebook page “UK Honors” is very active and a great place to mingle with other students in the Honors community. Also, follow us on Twitter [@UKHonProg](#) for additional news and events information.

**Central Hall LLP Facebook Group** – It is recommended that students living in Central Residence Hall join the Central LLP group for their cohort year. Joining the [Central Hall @UKY 2014-2015](#) group is a great way to find roommates, make friends, and be aware of events happening in Central Hall. The exact URL for that group is: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1505698826323620/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1505698826323620/).
Co-Curricular Activities

The Honors Program offers a wide variety of co-curricular activities designed to be both fun and intellectually stimulating. A calendar of events is released each term and students receive notifications from our listserv e-mail to keep them aware of upcoming activities that may interest them. Notable co-curricular events include:

NanoTED Talks

TED talks started out as a conference designed to bring together people from the world of Technology, Entertainment and Design. NanoTED talks offered by the Honors Program are designed to bring faculty and students together for brief lecture/discussion on topics of interest to Honors Students. These informal lectures are followed by lively discussion and are a fantastic way for students to network with faculty outside the program, and to learn about the broad range of interests and disciplines at the university.

“Food for Thought” Faculty Dinners

Faculty from across the university break bread in “Food for Thought” faculty dinners three times a semester. At each small-group, informal session, students enjoy great food (for free!) and conversation with a variety of faculty members.

Community Service

The Honors Program encourages students to participate in community service. Each semester the Honors Program organizes community service opportunities designed for students, staff, and faculty to get involved and make a difference in the community. Examples of past community service projects include fundraising for Kentucky Educational Television, neighborhood clean-ups after Wildcat football games, and voter registration drives.

Movie Screenings

The Honors Program offers film screenings hosted by faculty and staff. Students enjoy exposure to both highbrow cinema and pop culture picks, followed by faculty-led discussions afterwards. No reservations are needed. Recent film screenings include “Modern Times”, “Citizen Kane”, “Dr. Terror’s House of Horrors”, “Dangerous Liaisons”, “Mean Girls”, “The End of Poverty”, and “The Outlaw Josie Wales”.

Journal Journey

The Journal Journey Project (JJP) offers Honors Program students the opportunity to be matched with a faculty or staff mentor to keep a journal throughout the year for pass/fail credit in the spring semester of their participating year. The JJP allows students the freedom of a safe but guided journal-keeping schedule to reflect on their experience as scholars. The mentor/mentee relationship is an informal one, and students may, and often do, repeat the experience all four years with the same mentor.

Knit Club

The Honors Program Knit Club meets in the Honors Student Lounge to work on their fiber projects, chat, and relax after strenuous classes. Times and days for Knit Club change each semester to accommodate student availability. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. The Knit Club members are in the process of making 8” x 8” squares to be joined into blankets for Project Linus, a local charity.
Commendations

**Honors Program Recognition**

Completing the Honors Program curriculum will enable Honors Students to graduate with the distinction of the Honors Program designation on the UK transcript and diploma. This designation certifies completion of the Honors Program curriculum. Since it is printed on both the diploma and transcript, it indicates to future employers or graduate school decision-makers that you challenged yourself academically and succeeded in completing UK’s Honors Program.

**Honors Sash at Commencement**

Students completing the Honors Program curriculum wear a gold and blue Honors Program sash during the UK Commencement Ceremony to show their pride in completing the program and to be recognized for their outstanding work at UK.

**Departmental Honors**

Some academic departments allow students to earn Departmental Honors. Students who earn at least a 3.4 UK cumulative GPA and a 3.4 GPA in the departmental major will receive departmental and commencement honors. Students are not eligible for departmental honors if they have any grades of “D” in the major. Departmental and commencement honors are noted on the transcript and the diploma.

**Commencement Honors**

Students who attain a GPA of 3.8 or higher for at least three years (90 hours) of work at the University (with the exception of correspondence study) shall be graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Students who attain a GPA of 3.6 or higher for at least three years (90 hours) of work at the University (with the exception of correspondence study) shall be graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Students who attain a GPA of 3.4 or higher for at least three years (90 hours) of work at the University (with the exception of correspondence study) shall be graduated Cum Laude.

Students with a minimum of two years (60 hours) but less than three years (90 hours) of work at the University will receive the appropriate commencement honors if they attain a GPA of 0.2 greater than those specified for three years of work while in residence.