

Student Guide to the Honors Program Effective Fall 2022

Welcome to the University of New Haven Honors Program! This brief guide will give you information about the benefits and requirements of the program.

1. Mission Statement

The mission of the Honors Program is to help students become inquisitive thinkers who possess the skills necessary to ask profound questions, to recognize and respect diverse perspectives, to solve complex problems, and to express their vision creatively and persuasively to others. Honors courses, therefore, emphasize inquiry, interdisciplinary problem solving, and the effective expression of ideas. The program culminates in the honors thesis, a year-long research, service, or creative project on a question or problem chosen by the student. Every graduate of the Honors Program will have thus demonstrated the ability to work independently in their chosen field.

2. Course Requirements

To achieve these goals, students will complete a minimum of 19 credit hours in honors-level coursework.

Required courses

- HNRS 1112 (3 credits) “Seminar in Academic Inquiry and Writing”
This honors version of ENGL 1112 will introduce students to the concept of academic inquiry and the practice of academic writing. Students will also receive their first introduction to the thesis process. Students who receive AP credit for ENGL 1112 do not need to take HNRS 1112, although they are strongly encouraged to do so.

- HNRS 4459 (1 credit) “Developing an Honors Thesis Proposal”
In this course students will receive further instruction about the thesis process and produce a formal thesis proposal. This course is intended for juniors, but sophomores may enroll as well.

- XXXX 4593/HNRS 4593 (3 credits) “Honors Thesis”
This is the course in which students will complete their thesis. Most students will register for this course in their final semester at the university, but some departments ask students to register for it earlier than that. Note that students must begin work on the thesis long before they register for this course, which functions like an Independent Study. Thesis projects that are disciplinary in nature will be listed in the major using the course number 4593; interdisciplinary thesis projects will use the course number HNRS 4593.

Elective courses

In addition to the above, students must complete at least four honors courses of their choice, at least two of which must be 2000-level or higher. Students may take more than the required number of four courses if they wish.

Upper-Level Seminars

Each semester a variety of honors seminars will be offered. Honors seminars may appear from any discipline and will sometimes be interdisciplinary in nature. Honors seminars are designed to help students develop the skills necessary to complete the honors thesis by:

- reinforcing writing and presentation skills;
 - asking students to approach problems from multiple disciplinary perspectives;
 - applying liberal arts perspectives to professional contexts or problems; and/or
 - giving students the opportunity to work independently or collaboratively on projects.
- By the end of the course, each student should have produced something tangible to take with them – a research paper, creative work, business plan, model, design, etc. Honors seminars ask students to do more than complete exams.

Thesis support courses

In addition to the required HNRS 4459, two optional courses are designed to help students build the skills necessary for the successful completion of the thesis.

- HNRS 4457 (1 credit) “Honors Thesis Presentation Skills”
- HNRS 4458 (1 credit) “Honors Thesis Writing Workshop”

Honors sections of core courses or major requirements

Some departments offer honors sections of core curriculum courses or, in a very few cases, courses in the major. These courses fulfill the same core requirement as the regular version of the course. Honors sections of regular courses will typically

- cover material in greater depth;
- require more reading;
- include more writing;
- use a novel pedagogical approach; and/or
- include more work on independent projects.

After honors registration is complete, non-honors students with a GPA of 3.3 or higher may petition the Honors Program Director to be added to an honors section. Honors sections that are regularly offered include:

- CJST 1100
- HIST 1101 and 1102
- CHEM 1115/1117 and 1116/1118
- MATH 1117 and MATH 1118

- BIOL 2253 and 2254
- PHIL 2222
- FORS 4404

Honors Contract Courses

Some students may find themselves unable to fulfill the honors course requirements due to late change in major, decision to graduate early, or other unforeseen circumstances. Students in such a situation may complete an honors contract to fulfill one (and only one) of their 4 elective honors courses. Students interested in this procedure should consult the *Honors Contract Guidelines* available on the Honors Program website.

3. Other requirements

To remain in good standing in the Honors Program students must:

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.3.
- Attend a minimum of one honors thesis presentation each academic year.

Students in their first semester who fail to remain in good standing will receive a warning. All other students who fail to remain in good standing in any given semester will be placed on probation for the following semester. Students on probation must meet the requirements for good standing by the end of the semester of probation or be removed from the Honors Program. Students who have already been placed on probation once, regain their status, but then later fail to maintain good standing a second time will be removed from the program.

4. Graduation requirements

To graduate as an honors scholar a student must:

- Complete at least 19 credit hours of honors-level coursework as described above;
- Complete an honors thesis;
- Graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher;
- Maintain good standing in the program.

5. Honors Thesis

The honors thesis is the final requirement of the Honors Program and the capstone experience of your college career. Preparation for this project can help focus your interests, provide perspective in your major field of study, develop research skills, foster creativity and independent effort, and help synthesize your educational experiences to date. Working on this project will improve your ability to investigate a problem independently, explore a concept, perform experimentation, apply scholarship to a real world issue, and/or complete creative work in your field.

The honors thesis should represent approximately the amount of work expected in a semester-long course of three credit hours, but work for the thesis will begin in the junior year and extend throughout the senior year under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Honors students will complete the thesis during their final semester at the university.

For further information about the honors thesis, please see the separate document *Guidelines for the Written Honors Thesis and Presentation* available on our website.

6. Benefits

Students in the Honors Program enjoy several opportunities and privileges.

- Honors students are eligible to enroll in honors courses and to receive faculty guidance and supervision in the researching and writing of an honors thesis.
- Students completing the Honors Program and graduating from the University of New Haven receive acknowledgement of this status on their transcript.
- Honors students may participate in all honors co-curricular activities.
- Honors students may participate in the Honors Student Council and be elected to offices within it. The HSC organizes events throughout the year for both the honors and campus-wide communities. Students interested in getting involved should email honorsstudentcouncil@newhaven.edu.
- First-year honors students are eligible to live in the Honors Enhanced Learning Community. It provides campus housing that includes additional opportunities for students to interact with fellow honors students and with faculty members within the Honors Program. Applications to live in the Honors ELC are coordinated by the office of the Dean of Students.

- Honors students in good standing register for courses after seniors but before juniors, sophomores, and first-year students. Honors students who are seniors will register with their class.
- Students accepted into the Honors Program are eligible for a \$1000 annual scholarship provided they are in good standing in the Honors Program.
- Hatfield Scholar Program. The John Hatfield Scholar Program was established in 2004 by an anonymous donor in honor of former Executive Vice President and Provost John D. Hatfield. Sophomores and Juniors who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above are invited to apply for the award. After reviewing the applications, the Honors Program names up to three current sophomore honors students and three current junior honors students to hold the designation as John Hatfield Scholars during their junior and senior years respectively. Hatfield scholars receive a \$3000 scholarship (adjusted for inflation) and a bronze medal at Commencement. While this is a one-year scholarship, an awardee who receives the award as a junior may reapply for the award for the senior year.

7. Admission

A student may apply to join the Honors Program as an incoming first year-student or as a current student. Any current student with fewer than 60 credits and a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher may apply. The requirements for a student entering the Honors Program as a current student are the same except that a student who has already completed ENGL 1112 is not required to take HNRS 1112. Before applying, current students should consult with their academic advisor to discuss how the honors course requirements could be met.

8. Contact

There are lots of ways to get more information about the program. Check out our internal [website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page. Send questions to honors@newhaven.edu.

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