
Honors College

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Introduction

The Honors College is dedicated to enriching the undergraduate academic experience for talented, motivated and well-prepared students. Honors membership is open to all qualified students, whatever their major. Upon joining the Honors College, students find that they are part of an exciting community of talented scholars pursuing academic and intellectual growth. The goal of the Honors College is to help these students build an excellent foundation that prepares them for studying at the graduate level, establishing a career, and meeting the demands of responsible citizenship.

The Benefits of Honors College Membership

Honors Classes

Honors faculty and staff work to design, implement and support learning opportunities for students, both in and beyond the classroom. The primary benefit of honors membership is the right to enroll in honors classes, which are taught by faculty members with a strong commitment to undergraduate education. Honors classes offer a supportive environment in which students are encouraged to grow intellectually. The small enrollment of honors classes opens up opportunities for active participation in learning, including projects, presentations and class discussions. In addition, most honors classes can be substituted for non-honors classes in the University Core Curriculum. Honors students also enjoy priority registration each semester.

Undergraduate Research

Many Honors students elect to participate in the undergraduate research track offered by the Honors College. Students may take courses to learn about research, develop their research projects, and write an Honors thesis, all under the guidance of a faculty mentor in their major. Students in the research track have opportunities to present their research at regional and national conferences, and may have their work published in the Honors College online journal of undergraduate research, *The Eagle Feather*, or other scholarly journals.

Special Programming and Housing

Honors members are invited to participate in many special programs sponsored by the college. These programs include opportunities to have lunch with a professor or dean, hear scholars discuss their work, take trips to local museums and enjoy free tickets to concerts and other cultural events. Honors students are also eligible to live in Honors Hall.

Honors College Membership and Participation

Honors College membership is open to every qualified student pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the University of North Texas, and membership is compatible with every undergraduate major and program. Honors is a flexible program that allows students to decide each semester on the combination of honors, non-honors and major classes that best suits their needs. Membership in the Honors College is secondary to membership in the college of the student's major, and students in the Honors College can choose from several levels of participation and recognition.

Eligibility for Membership

College Freshmen

Admission to the Honors College is competitive and requires a separate application. To be eligible, freshman students should have a combined math and verbal SAT score of at least 1200 (ACT 27) and be in the top ranks of their high school graduating class, as evidenced by class standing and grade point average. A writing sample and a copy of all relevant transcripts should be submitted with the Honors College application. Students who are awarded the UNT Meritorious Scholarship qualify automatically for admission, but must still submit the completed application. Students whose scores and class rank are slightly below these standards may still apply for membership by submitting a portfolio of materials

demonstrating their readiness for honors work, such as a personal essay, a list of academic awards, writing samples and letters of recommendation.

Continuing UNT and Transfer Students

Continuing UNT students or students transferring to UNT from other institutions of higher learning are eligible to enroll in the Honors College on the basis of their GPA from already completed college work. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.35 qualifies continuing UNT and transfer students for membership in the Honors College, provided at least one full-time semester of college work has already been completed. Students who will have 75 or more credits upon entering the Honors College are not eligible for membership.

Students transferring to UNT may apply up to 12 honors credits from another NCHC-member honors program or college toward the Honors Scholar or Distinguished Honors Scholar Award. For such courses to apply toward a UNT Honors College award, the grade earned must be B or better. The dean of the Honors College must approve all honors courses from other institutions to be applied toward a UNT Honors College award.

UNT students who join the Honors College after graduation from the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science may receive up to 12 honors credits for courses taken in TAMS toward the Honors Scholar or Distinguished Honors Scholar Award. For such courses to apply toward a UNT Honors College award, the grade earned must be a B or better. The dean of the Honors College must approve all TAMS courses to be applied toward a UNT Honors College award.

Programs for Participation and Recognition in the Honors College

Honors College Recognition Award

The Honors College Recognition Award requires 15 honors credits with a cumulative and Honors GPA of at least 3.00. The Honors College Recognition Award is open to freshman, continuing and transfer students. All credits for this award must be earned at UNT, and no more than one honors contract may be counted toward the Honors College Recognition Award. Students who complete the Honors College Recognition Award will receive the Honors College medallion and have the accomplishment noted on their UNT transcript.

Honors Scholar Award

The Honors Scholar Award requires completion of at least 24 honors credits, including a capstone thesis, project, course or approved substitute.

The student must also maintain a cumulative and Honors GPA of at least 3.0. No more than two honors contracts may be counted toward the Honors Scholar Award. Students who complete the Honors Scholar Award receive the Honors College medallion and have the accomplishment noted on their UNT transcript.

Distinguished Honors Scholar Award

The highest recognition available to students through the Honors College is the Distinguished Honors Scholar Award. For this award, the student must earn at least 27 honors credits, 3 of which must be an honors thesis or an honors thesis replacement, and must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5. No more than two honors contracts may be counted toward the Distinguished Honors Scholar Award. Students who complete the Distinguished Honors Scholar Award receive the Honors College medallion and have the accomplishment noted on their UNT transcript.

Departmental Honors

Any department or degree program at UNT may elect to participate in Departmental Honors. Students should contact the department, the degree program office or the Honors College to find out whether a particular department participates in Departmental Honors.

Students in good standing in the Honors College may pursue Departmental Honors in the department or program of their major. To graduate with Departmental Honors, a student must

1. successfully complete at least 30 Honors credits, including at least 12 Honors credits in the major department, or in a related department, with approval of the major department;
2. complete the Honors thesis (or an approved substitute) in the major department or program; and
3. have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50.

Up to two successfully completed Honors contracts may be applied to Departmental Honors. Requirements for graduating with Departmental Honors are established by the Honors College, and details and additional information may be obtained from the Honors College.

Recordkeeping for Departmental Honors is handled by the Honors College. Students earning Departmental Honors will be recognized at commencement by the Honors College and the department or program in which Honors is earned.

Honors Courses

Specific objectives have been adopted for honors courses, including the following.

1. Honors courses emphasize development of analytical and evaluative skills through readings from primary sources, journal articles and other supplementary materials.
2. Honors courses encourage students to engage in high-level thinking and learning through activities such as intensive discussion; writing in small, collaborative learning settings; and intensive research papers and projects.
3. Honors courses promote independent thinking by making students accountable for important aspects of their learning.
4. Honors courses place material in a conceptual context that illustrates its importance and relationship to other knowledge.
5. Honors courses provide enhanced opportunities for students to develop research skills and produce independent, original research or creative products as part of the course requirements.
6. Honors courses include innovative approaches to course content and teaching so that honors courses can serve as campuswide prototypes.

Honors classes at the 1000 and 2000 levels are reserved for members of the Honors College. Students who are not members of the Honors College but have junior status and a GPA of at least 3.5 may request enrollment in honors classes at the 3000 and 4000 levels if space is available after honors students register. The honors academic counselor can assist with enrollment.

Honors Courses that Meet University Core Curriculum Requirements

1. **English Composition and Rhetoric (6 hours):** Honors Composition I: ENGL 1311, 3 hours; Honors Composition II: ENGL 1321, 3 hours.
2. **Mathematics (3 hours):** MATH 1710 (special section), 4 hours; MATH 1720 (special section), 3 hours.
3. **Natural Sciences (6 hours):** BIOL 1711/1733 (special section), 4 hours; BIOL 1722/1744 (special section), 4 hours; CHEM 1412/1430, 4 hours; CHEM 1422/1440, 4 hours; PHYS 1052 (special section), 3 hours; PHYS 1316, 3 hours.
4. **U.S. History (6 hours):** HIST 2675, 3 hours; HIST 2685, 3 hours.
5. **Political Science (6 hours):** PSCI 1041, 3 hours; PSCI 1051, 3 hours; PSCI 1085, 3 hours.

6. **Visual and Performing Arts (3 hours):** ART 1301, 3 hours; MUMH 1600 (special section), 3 hours; THEA 1340 (special section), 3 hours.

7. **Humanities (3 hours):** ENGL 2211, 3 hours; ENGL 2221, 3 hours.

8. **Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 hours):** ECON 1110 (special section), 3 hours; SOCI 1520 (special section), 3 hours.

9. **Understanding the Human Community (6 hours):** COMM 1440, 3 hours; HIST 1075, 3 hours; HIST 1085, 3 hours; MUET 3020 (special section), 3 hours; PHIL 2070 (special section), 3 hours; PSCI 3810 (special section), 3 hours; SOCI 2010 (special section), 3 hours.

National Student Exchange

Connie Fickenscher, Campus Coordinator

An undergraduate student at the University of North Texas may apply to spend a term/semester or a year on exchange at one of nearly 200 colleges and universities that are members of the National Student Exchange, a consortium that provides for students within the United States and Canada what study abroad programs offer on an international scale. Through NSE a student can travel and live at another university site, take courses that are not offered at UNT, assess an out-of-state institution for future graduate study, and enjoy a part of the United States that is quite different from Texas.

UNT's membership in the National Student Exchange makes it possible for a UNT student to attend another NSE member institution at the same cost as attending UNT or at the in-state tuition rate of the other university. The student remains enrolled at UNT, with all the advantages of continuous enrollment. Through NSE coordinators on the two campuses, the tasks of advising, registering for classes and securing housing can be worked out to provide the student with a smooth exchange experience. UNT students may apply for financial aid on our campus for the term(s)/semester(s) they will be on exchange.

Students must be enrolled full time at UNT for two consecutive long terms/semesters prior to exchange including the term/semester in which they apply and must have a minimum cumulative UNT GPA of at least 2.5 at the time of application and when the exchange actually takes place. All aspects of the application process must be completed by February 15 prior to the academic year in which the student wishes to go on exchange. Since exchanges are limited, an exchange through NSE is a privilege for which the student must be selected.

Students who are interested in learning more about an exchange through NSE should contact the campus coordinator to learn the procedures of applying and qualifying. Interested students should stop by Chilton Hall, Room 211, to pick up a copy of the NSE Directory, which explains how the program works and provides detailed information about every institution that participates in NSE.

Courses of Instruction

All Courses of Instruction are located in one section at the back of this catalog.

Course and Subject Guide

The “Course and Subject Guide,” found in the Courses of Instruction section of this book, serves as a table of contents and provides quick access to subject areas and prefixes.