

# University Honors Program

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<http://www.slu.edu/honors>

*Please note that this curriculum is for students who matriculated at Saint Louis University for the fall 2014 semester. Students who enrolled prior to fall 2014 should use the academic catalog appropriate for their term of entry.*

## Program Overview

The University Honors Program (UHP) is designed for academically-talented students from all majors. The UHP encourages learning both in and out of the classroom through experiences such as seminar-style classes, independent studies, internships, research projects, and study abroad. Students work closely with their Honors advisors to create rigorous courses of study focused on exploring their academic and career interests. The UHP brings students and faculty together in a community of scholars to explore topics of mutual interest in an interdisciplinary way. In addition, the UHP promotes academic excellence through a sequential curriculum of opportunities in which students develop leadership, cultural competence and personal responsibility while growing in their faith.

## Admission to the Program

Admission to the UHP is determined by previous academic performance, achievement in college entrance examinations, and evidence of interest in the Program. Interested candidates must apply online.

## Eligibility and Deadlines

**First-time college students** must have an outstanding high school academic record in a rigorous curriculum (represented by only As and Bs in all classes and a minimum 3.8GPA) and a composite ACT score of at least 30 or an SAT score of at least 1330. The GPA and ACT/SAT scores are the minimum for admission consideration; the committee also reviews a personal statement and letters of recommendation. Complete applications are due no later than December 1 for enrollment in the UHP in fall of the freshman year.

**Current students** must have completed at least one semester at Saint Louis University, earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA, and have accrued less than 45 credit hours. Complete applications are due no later than October 15 for spring enrollment and February 15 for fall enrollment.

**Transfer students** must have earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA at their previous institution(s) and have accrued less than 45 credit hours. Transfer students may be awarded Honors credit (not to exceed 12 units) for previous Honors coursework at the discretion of the Director of the University Honors Program.

Decisions about Honors transfer credit will be made at the time of admission. Complete applications are due no later than October 15 for spring enrollment and February 15 for fall enrollment.

## Program Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of twenty-four hours of Honors academic credit, including a minimum of 18 credit hours in traditional classroom-based coursework and 6 credit hours in out-of-class experiences, such as internships; specific requirements are described below. To remain active in the program, students must earn academic credit in an Honors course or experience each semester.

Students must earn a B or better in Honors courses. Honors courses for which a student earns less than a B will not count toward meeting UHP requirements. Students also must maintain at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average to remain in good standing with the UHP. Student progress is reviewed at the end of each academic year; students below a 3.5 cumulative grade point average will be notified they may not continue in the Program.

Students who successfully complete all UHP requirements and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 graduate through the University Honors Program (listed on the transcript). Latin Honors (e.g., cum laude) are awarded on the basis of grade point average and are separate from the UHP.

## UHP Curriculum

Students must complete twenty-four hours of Honors academic credit. Eighteen of the credits must be from traditional course-based experiences, and six credits must be from experiences out of class.

### 18 credit hours in class

- HR 190: Crossroads, an Introduction to Honors (required of all UHP students)
- HR 496: Honors Senior Seminar (required of all UHP students)
- Honors-only courses
- Cross-listed courses
- Course contracts
- HR 498: Independent Study
- Graduate courses

### 6 credits out of class

- HR 490: Honors Senior Capstone (required of all UHP students)
- HR 481: Honors Teaching Assistantship
- HR 482: Honors Study Abroad
- HR 483: Honors Internship
- HR 484: Honors Research
- HR 485: Honors International Partnership

## UHP Academic Policies

### Honors Academic Advising

Each Honors student is assigned an Honors Academic Advisor. Honors Advisors provide specialized secondary advising for UHP students throughout their undergraduate careers. Honors Advisors work with primary advisors in all schools and colleges as well as faculty and staff from specialty programs to provide support for Honors students. Honors Advisors help each student construct a rigorous, personalized curriculum plan directed at achieving her or his academic and career goals. Honors advisors also are available to discuss course selection, undergraduate research and capstone options, post-graduation plans, and distinguished scholarship opportunities. Students will meet with their Honors Advisors at least once each academic year to keep track of their progress in the UHP.

### Priority Registration

Honors students are able to register one business day before other students in their class. For this purpose, students are ranked on the basis of completed semester hours accepted for credit.

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Freshmen   | 1 to 29 credit hours    |
| Sophomores | 30 to 59 credit hours   |
| Juniors    | 60 to 89 credit hours   |
| Seniors    | 90 or more credit hours |

### Withdrawing from an Honors Course

Students are expected to complete attempted Honors credit options (both in class and out of class), and withdrawing from an Honors course may be arranged only in special circumstances with permission in advance from the Director of the University Honors Program. Permission will be granted only in accordance with University deadlines for withdrawing from a course, and withdrawing from an Honors course may have an impact on the student's standing in the Honors Program.

### Taking an Incomplete in an Honors Course

Students may take an "Incomplete" in an Honors course with permission from the course instructor. The student must complete the course work within one year or the grade for the course becomes an F (in accordance with the University policy for incomplete grades).

### Grading Options

Students may not take Honors courses pass/fail. Honors courses must be taken for a letter grade.

### Taking Honors Courses Abroad

Students studying abroad may take Honors courses that will count towards the twenty-four required Honors credit hours, but only with permission in advance from the Director of the University Honors Program. Students may develop a contract for an Honors course while studying at the Saint Louis University Madrid Campus; again, the student must have permission in advance from the Director of the University Honors Program.

### Dismissal from the Honors Program

Students must remain in good standing with the Honors Program by (1) maintaining at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA, (2) earning Honors credit every semester, and (3) earning a B or better in required Honors courses (i.e., HR 190: Crossroads, HR 496: Honors Senior Seminar, or HR 490: Honors Senior Capstone)

At the end of each academic year, the UHP reviews each student's progress in all three of these areas. Students who have a cumulative GPA below a 3.5, and/or who have not earned Honors credit one or both terms of that year, and/or who earn a B- or below in a required Honors course will be dismissed from the UHP. Students who are dismissed from the UHP are not permitted to re-enroll.

## Honors Course Descriptions

### HR 190: Crossroads (3 credits)

*Crossroads* provides Honors students with an intellectually stimulating introduction to the UHP. The course objectives emphasize the development of writing skills, critical thinking skills, and active participation in class discussion. Course topics vary by semester but each class takes an interdisciplinary approach to a central theme or question. Most Crossroads courses include a service-learning component.

Note: All UHP students are required to take *Crossroads* during their first semester in the UHP.

### HR 481: Teaching Assistantships (3 credits)

Students may serve as a teaching assistant for *Crossroads* after completing the course. Teaching assistants (TAs) help the *Crossroads* instructors with course design and implementation, and also provide peer mentoring. Teaching assistants must be available for the *Crossroads* class itself as well as for time outside of class sessions to assist the instructor with course preparations. Teaching assistants also will submit a written reflection of their experiences at the conclusion of the term before receiving credit.

Students who are interested in serving as *Crossroads* TAs must submit an application, participate in interviews; students who are selected to be TAs may enroll in HR 481.

### HR 482: Honors Study Abroad (1 credit)

During their term(s) abroad, HR 482 students participate in on-line discussions with peers and engage in individual reflective writing. Available for fall, spring, and summer terms.

### HR 483: Honors Internships (1-3 credits)

Credit received is determined by the number of hours worked; one credit hour is awarded for every eighty hours at the internship site. Students interested in enrolling in HR 483 are responsible for securing their own internship position and identifying a faculty sponsor. In addition, an Honors Internship Proposal and Learning Agreement must be submitted to the UHP for approval by the first

Friday of the semester of enrollment in HR 483. Once their request is approved, HR 483 students will participate in an internship cohort which may meet in person or online to engage in both individual and group reflection. Available for fall, spring, and summer terms.

**HR 484: Honors Research (1-3 credits)**

Credit is determined by the number of hours worked; one credit hour is awarded for every eighty hours at the research site. Students interested in enrolling in HR 484 are responsible for securing their own research position and identifying a faculty sponsor. In addition, an Honors Research Proposal and Learning Agreement must be submitted to the UHP for approval by the first Friday of the semester of enrollment in HR 484. Once their request is approved, HR 484 students will participate in a research cohort which may meet in person or online to engage in both individual and group reflection. Available for fall, spring, and summer terms.

**HR 485: International Partnership (1 credit)**

Students are matched with a student taking an English as a Second Language course and will be notified of their language partner placement after enrolling. To complete the IP program successfully, Honors students must meet with their partners at least five times during the semester, for a total of ten hours. There are five assigned IP calendar sessions and Honors students are expected to meet with their language partner at least once during each calendar session. A meeting must be at least one hour to count towards the required five calendar session meetings. Students must also participate in orientation and individual and group reflection to earn credit. Available fall and spring semesters.

**HR 490: Honors Senior Capstone (individual program capstones for 3-credits may be substituted for HR 490)**

Students are required to undertake a capstone project in their major area during their senior year for the purpose of demonstrating the student's breadth and depth of knowledge as well as skills of critical analysis, research, synthesis, integration, communication, and creativity. The capstone project should be an intensive product of the student's independent work, but should involve ongoing engagement with, and feedback from, a faculty sponsor. Many majors at SLU require a senior thesis or capstone; those projects might fulfill the requirements of the Honors Capstone. Students must submit a completed Honors Senior Capstone proposal with the support of a faculty sponsor to the UHP for approval the semester prior to undertaking the project. The deadlines are November 15 for spring projects and April 15 for fall projects. Students enrolled in HR 490 will participate in cohort meetings to develop skills necessary to implement their projects, receive feedback, and to present findings.

**HR 496: Honors Senior Seminar (3 credits)**

Students must take an interdisciplinary, reading and writing intensive, discussion-based seminar during their senior year. Topics vary by semester and are focused on significant questions facing our global society. Offered fall and spring semesters.

**HR 498: Honors Independent Study (1-3 credits)**

Students are responsible for securing their own independent study arrangements and identifying a faculty sponsor. Students must submit the Honors Independent Study Proposal for approval by the first Friday of the semester. Once approved, students must fulfill the stipulated aspects of the independent study agreement. Available for fall, spring, and summer terms.

**Additional Credit Opportunities**

**Honors-Only Courses**

Numerous academic departments offer courses with enrollment limited to Honors students. These courses are taught by some of Saint Louis University's most distinguished faculty, and the class size is typically limited to 20 students. Many required Arts & Sciences core classes are offered as Honors-only courses, such as THEO 100 & 220, PHIL 105 & 205, and HIST 111 & 112. Options vary by semester.

**Crosslisted Courses**

The majority of Honors courses are cross-listed courses, which means that both Honors students and non-Honors students can enroll in the course. Cross-listed courses involve supplemental assignments for students to earn Honors credit. Honors students must register specifically for the Honors section of the course (designated by an H in the section number) and must complete the supplemental Honors work. Students may not opt out of the Honors section or the supplemental Honors work after the University add/drop deadline.

**Course Contracts**

Students may elect to earn Honors credit through a non-Honors course by contracting the class with the professor. The course must be at the 300 or 400 level in the student's major or minor area. Students must submit an Honors Contract Agreement with the professor's support that describes supplemental assignments the student will complete for Honors credit. Contracts must be submitted to the UHP for approval by the first Friday of the semester. Students may not opt out of the supplemental Honors work, which is graded pass/no pass. For the course to count towards the student's Honors requirements, the student must pass the supplemental Honors work and earn a B or better in the course.

**Graduate Courses**

Graduate courses will count towards the twenty-four required Honors credit hours.