Honors Program

The Wilkes University Honors Program provides an opportunity for talented and highly motivated students to participate in challenging learning experiences focused on the development of leadership, integrity, and self-awareness while pursuing academic excellence. Accepted first year students with SAT scores of 1190 or higher or who rank in the top 20 percent of their high school class are invited to apply. Students accepted into the program are notified during the spring prior to their first semester in the fall.

Requirements

Students admitted to the program are required to take a cohort-based, three credit Honors class that counts towards University core requirements. They are required to take 18 additional Honors credits – six at the upper level – in addition to their major and other University graduation credit requirements. All must participate in a one-credit Honors senior seminar.

There is an overall cumulative grade point average requirement of a 3.4 for students graduating from the program. The required cumulative grade point average is 3.0 after the first year, 3.2 after the sophomore year, 3.3 after the junior year, and a 3.4 in the senior year. A student will only be allowed one grade of a 2.5 in their Honors courses to receive Honors credit. All other Honors course grades must be a 3.0 or higher. A student who is below the required cumulative grade point average for any given year will have one semester to meet the necessary requirement before being removed from the program. Students removed from the program will no longer receive the benefits associated with the program.

Recommended Course Sequence

First Year Fall Semester
FYF 101H 3 credits

First Year Spring Semester
ENG 120H or HST 101H 3 credits

Second Year Fall Semester
Gen Ed or Major 3-4 credits

Second Year Spring Semester
Gen Ed or Major 3-4 credits

Third Year Fall Semester
Gen Ed or Major (300 level) 3-8 credits

Third Year Spring Semester
Major (300 level) 3-4 credits

Fourth Year Fall Semester
Major or Internship or Study Abroad 3-6 credits

Fourth Year Spring Semester
Honors Senior Seminar 1 credit

Honors Course Offerings – First Year

Courses carrying Honors designations will address, minimally one of the core values of the program: leadership(LE), integrity (demonstrated learning of ethics and values)(IN), self-awareness (emphasis on self-reflection)(SA), academic rigor (beyond academic expectations of regular section offerings)(AR), importance of building community(CO) and appreciating diversity(DI).

FYF 101H

This course serves as a platform for Honors students to discover the dynamic aspects of leadership (LE), begin reflecting on individual leadership characteristics and develop a plan for self-discovery (SA) that culminates in connecting the student as a leader in the context of his/her primary academic interests . Therefore, upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

• understand several leadership theories and apply them to a variety of contexts (IN)(AR)
• demonstrate an understanding of self in relation to past and future leadership opportunities (SA)
• understand the breadth and scope of leadership and apply it in an interdisciplinary context (AR)
• understand self-reflection as a tool for learning (SA)
• discuss opportunities to serve as change agents relative to careers and community (CO)
• understand basic research skills (AR)
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- developed oral proficiencies as both a presenter and facilitator
- developed skills necessary for effective group collaboration (CO)
- developed deeper multicultural understanding (DI)

ENG 120H or HST 101H (Spring Semester)
Students will take either ENG 120H or HST 101H depending on individual program needs. Courses are designed to be cohort based and include the program’s core values with 15-17 students in each.

*MTH 111 and MTH 112 (optional)
There is an Honors section of MTH 111 in the fall (*for those needing calculus for their major) and an Honors section of MTH 112 in the spring. Honors students must meet the criteria outlined by the instructor to enroll.

Honors Course Offerings – 2nd through 4th Year

“And Honors” (&H) Course Requirements
An "And Honors" or "&H" section is added to an existing course in which both Honors and non-Honors students are enrolled to signal that the Honors students have the opportunity to earn Honors course credit. To earn this credit, Honors students must be enrolled specifically in the &H section and they must satisfactorily complete work complementary to the existing syllabus. These courses may be part of the general education or major requirements.

Generally, Honors components enable students to pursue breadth, depth, complexity, and/or interdisciplinarity within their coursework. The Wilkes University Honors Program endorses the core values of academic rigor (beyond academic expectations of regular section offerings), leadership, integrity (demonstrated learning of ethics and values), self-awareness (emphasis on self-reflection), importance of building community, and appreciating diversity. Honors course components should reflect one or more of these core values. Examples of complementary work include:

- independent research, case study, or creative project within student's discipline (in-depth learning)
- exploration of broad themes and/or enduring questions across disciplines (breadth of learning)
- experiential learning (including internships, field work, and study abroad)
- service-learning (conscious and purposeful integration of service and learning elements)
- intercollegiate undergraduate academic competitions, presentations/conferences, and/or publications
- experimental or innovative pedagogy

Honors Conversion Courses

Honors conversion courses differ from “and H” courses in that they are:

- offered to students during their junior and senior year to satisfy honors credit
- The additional supplemental work is determined following an individual assessment of needs of the student and available resources and time of the faculty member. Students and faculty would submit a request to be approved by the Honors Advisory Council within the first three weeks of a semester.
- Courses with sections (or equivalent courses) already offered for Honors credit in the same semester cannot be converted, students must enroll in the Honors section or equivalent course. [Students may convert courses where honors sections are full.]
- Study abroad and internships will be treated as conversion courses with a maximum of six credits applying towards Honors credits.
  To convert a course, a student must:

  - Contact the instructor and discuss the possibility of converting it to honors credit
  - Develop a plan with the instructor to work individually, or as part of a group, to advance the curriculum
  - Submit a Course Conversion Agreement within the first 3 weeks of the semester
  - Successfully complete any additional assignments and earn a B, or higher, in the course

Culminating one-credit senior seminar

This one credit course is designed to help Honors students work towards sharing their academic work with broader audiences and to allow them to reflect upon their experience in the program. Students will be encouraged to develop professional conference presentations, and/or publication submissions. Students also receive guidance in applying for graduate programs and grant opportunities. Students reflect on the development of their own skills in relation to the core values of the Honors program: leadership, integrity, self-awareness, academic rigor, community, and diversity. The course will be delivered using a seminar style format. The seminar culminates in a public presentation of students’ research at Wilkes in the form of an Honors exhibition.