

HONORS PROGRAM

The DU Honors Program cultivates student capacity for original academic inquiry and creative exploration.

Our students emerge as self-directed learners, encouraged to ask new questions and pursue their curiosities – both within the classroom and beyond.

Every year, the program recruits a diverse cohort of creative thinkers who want to go beyond the requirements – whether they were part of an Honors program in high school or not.

The three pillars of the Honors Program are our curriculum, our community, and our contributions to original research, scholarship, and creative activities.

We accept 100 students per year, and the vast majority of those students apply prior to starting at DU. Incoming students (first-year & transfer) may apply to the University Honors Program once they are accepted to the University. The last chance for current students to apply to the Honors program is after their first fall quarter at DU.

Honors at DU is not a major or a minor, but rather an academic community. Our curriculum mostly overlaps with common curriculum requirements and distinction requirements set by the different departments.

Students graduate with University Honors upon satisfaction of the following requirements:

1. Completion of Honors course requirements
2. Satisfaction of all requirements for distinction in at least one major
3. Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher at graduation

To remain active in the Honors Program, students must be in “good standing” at the University, continue to make positive progress towards completing Honors requirements, and remain responsive to communication from Honors Program staff.

Most of the Honors requirements overlap with the Common Curriculum requirements. The program only requires 6 credits of additional Honors-specific coursework, as well as asking students to satisfy departmental requirements.

First Year

HNRS 1000	Honors Summit	0
WRIT 1622	Advanced Rhetoric and Writing	4
WRIT 1733	Honors Writing	4

Second Year

HNRS 2000	Extreme Academics: Defining Success and Forging Your Path	1
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Additional Requirements Taken Between First and Third Years

HNRS 2400	Honors Seminar	2
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AI Society course with Honors attribute		4
SI Society course with Honors attribute		4
Optional - Honors Geography SI Natural sequence GEOG 1264, GEOG 1265, GEOG 1266		12

Final Year

HNRS 3000	Into the Unknown	0-1
ASEM course with Honors attribute		4

Other Requirements

Earn Distinction in your Major

Graduate with a 3.5 GPA

HNRS 1000 Honors Summit (0 Credits)

Welcome to DU Honors! This is the first course of the core Honors sequence. It provides space for you to reflect on your values and what brought you here and to set goals for your college journey and your participation in the Honors community. We also want to be sure you have all the resources that you need to succeed in the University Honors Program, and to introduce you to the staff, faculty, and other students in the program. We will focus on advising and graduation planning that will help you to maximize your college experience. Additionally, we will highlight the resources at DU that are particularly important for Honors students, including opportunities for undergraduate research and other signature work, competitive external fellowships, and distinction resources. This is a zero-credit course. Students must attend one in-person four-hour session.

HNRS 2000 Extreme Academics: Defining Success and Forging Your Path (0-1 Credits)

How do you make the most of your experience at DU? How do you set yourself up for success after graduation? This course will provide resources and strategies for students to cultivate their passions and purpose through signature work and distinction, develop their networks, design a meaningful DU experience, identify and prepare for impactful opportunities like fellowships and graduate school programs, and tell their story. In doing so, it will advance students' 4D Experience, enabling reflection, connection, and discovery. The culminating project for the course will be a personal statement, designed to help students reflect on and articulate how their experiences and values have shaped their academic and professional identity and make them a fit for opportunities of interest. Prerequisite: HNRS 1000.

HNRS 2400 Honors Seminar (0-2 Credits)

A number of these seminars are offered every year on a rotating basis. Topics vary every quarter. Honors Seminars are taught in a faculty member's area of expertise – often on niche subjects that bring students directly into dialogue with faculty research, scholarship, or creative work. They are an opportunity for students to get to know faculty and engage with advanced content in small discussion-oriented seminars that are open to students from all majors.

HNRS 2401 Adventures in Fellowships (2 Credits)

This course is designed to empower students to develop their personal narratives and to pursue “good-fit” fellowship competitions that create pathways to impact. Students will explore external fellowships, parse funding organizations' criteria and priorities, and work through applications to tell a coherent narrative with attention to common application components such as personal statements; letters of recommendation; and reflections on leadership, service, and impact. Class sessions and assignments will guide students through reflection about interests and goals, telling the story of their experiences, and identifying and preparing for competitive fellowships that will help them drive change on the issues that matter to them. Students will gain a foundation for expanded knowledge and growth in line with the 4D Experience as well as practical tools and strategies for crafting competitive applications for external opportunities. Cross-listed with LDRS 2920. This course counts as an Honors Seminar (HNRS 2400) for the University Honors Program and as an elective towards the Leadership Studies Minor.

HNRS 2701 Wildlife Conservation & Culture (4 Credits)

The focus of the course is the intersection of conservation and culture. The goal is to generate new and creative ways to think about conservation. Students will be exposed to different examples of conservation governance, ranging from state-controlled access commonly found in national parks to indigenous communities that are assisting conservation efforts. They will inquire as to what impacts different projects are having in not only helping stem the loss of habitat and wildlife, but also the informal governance institutions managing their unique ecosystems in sustainable ways. Importantly, we will consider our main questions through a very broad and informal cost/benefit analysis that encompasses more than the limiting economic factors normally used. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

HNRS 3000 Into the Unknown (0-1 Credits)

For many high-achieving students, college is a given. It is the clear next step in life after high school. As you consider your post-baccalaureate plans, the future may feel less certain. This course is designed to give you space to reflect on your college experiences and to articulate their meaning – both to yourself and to potential future employers or collaborators. It also provides opportunities for you to consider goals and strategies for the future, including questions like: How do you define success and design the life you want? How do you decide whether an opportunity is a good fit? How do you assess and redirect when you experience failure, ambiguity, or change? The course provides repeated opportunities to engage in structured self-reflection, both individually and in community with peers who are also preparing to go into the unknown. This course is intended for Honors students in their final year at DU.

HNRS 3991 Independent Study (1-5 Credits)

By arrangement.

4-Year Course Plan

First Year

Fall	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits
FSEM 1111	4	WRIT 1622*	4	WRIT 1733*	4
GEOG 1264**	4	GEOG 1265**	4	GEOG 1266***	4
HNRS 1000	0	Honors AI Society or SI Society*	4	HNRS 2400	2
Major/minor coursework	8	Major/minor coursework	4	Major/minor coursework	8
	16		16		18

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits
Honors AI Society or SI Society*	4	HNRS 2000	0-1	HNRS 2400	2
Major/minor coursework	12	Major/minor coursework	16	Major/minor coursework	16
	16		16-17		18

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits
Study Abroad	0-18	Major/minor coursework	16	Major/minor coursework	16
	0-18		16		16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits
Honors ASEM*		4 HNRS 3000		0-1 Major/minor coursework	16
Major/minor coursework		12 Major/minor coursework		16	
	16		16-17		16

Total Credits: 180-200

* Meets both Honors and Common Curriculum requirements

** Option for Honors; meets Common Curriculum requirements in an Honors community environment

3-Year Course Plan

First Year

Fall	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits
FSEM 1111		4 WRIT 1622*		4 WRIT 1733*	4
GEOG 1264**		4 GEOG 1265**		4 GEOG 1266**	4
HNRS 1000		0 Honors AI Society or SI Society*		4 HNRS 2400	2
Major/minor coursework		8 Major/minor coursework		4 Honors AI Society or SI Society*	4
				Major/minor coursework	4
	16		16		18

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits
Study Abroad		0-18 HNRS 2000		0-1 HNRS 2400	2
		Major/minor coursework		16 Major/minor coursework	16
	0-18		16-17		18

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits
Honors ASEM*		4 HNRS 3000		0-1 Major/minor coursework	16
Major/minor coursework		12 Major/minor coursework		16	
	16		16-17		16

Total Credits: 132-152

* Meets both Honors and Common Curriculum requirements

** Optional for Honors; meets Common Curriculum requirements in an Honor community environment