

Honors College Student Handbook



University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

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The Honors College Student Handbook is designed to answer your questions about Honors College benefits and opportunities, advising and support services, the curriculum, and registration procedures. Please keep it on hand for future reference.

Contact the Honors College office at (414) 229-4658 if you have questions about any of the information in this handbook.

Welcome to the Honors College

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Honors College has been an important part of UWM since its founding by Dr. Herman Weil, Professor of Psychology, in 1960. Within the university's large, urban setting, the Honors College offers the benefits of a small liberal arts college to a select group of students.

Honors College students come from a wide range of academic, cultural, and economic backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of UWM's student body. The Honors College faculty, many of whom have received prestigious teaching awards, are among UWM's best. They teach small seminars, giving Honors students the opportunity to work closely with top scholars and educators. And because the Honors College enrolls a limited number of students, Honors faculty and staff are able to give each student a high level of individual attention, both inside and outside of the classroom.

For all of these reasons, as well as the high academic quality of Honors courses, the Honors College helps students develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed after college, whether in the professional world or in post-graduate education.

About 500 students are enrolled in the Honors College, and each year about 60 students graduate with an Honors degree.



The Honors College offers the benefits of a small liberal arts college within a major research university.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students pursuing their first degree may be admitted to the Honors College as freshmen, continuing, or transfer students if they meet the College's criteria. Freshmen are admitted on the basis of their high school record, ACT composite score, and English Placement Test score. Continuing UWM or transfer students should have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, have met the University English requirement, and have completed not more than 40 credits. All new students meet with an Honors advisor to discuss how the Honors College will fit into their academic plans.

CONTINUING IN THE HONORS COLLEGE

The Honors College requires students to meet the following GPA/enrollment criteria:

- A. To continue in the Honors College, students must maintain the following minimum grade point averages for work done at UWM:

Freshmen & Sophomores	3.2
Juniors	3.3
Seniors	3.4
To graduate with an Honors degree	3.5

Note: Students admitted as freshmen who fail to earn at least a 3.0 grade point average during their first semester of full-time enrollment at UWM (or their first 12 credits) cannot enroll in an Honors class in their second semester.

- B. Students admitted as new freshmen must complete Honors 200 in their freshman year.
- C. Students who do not take Honors courses for two consecutive semesters will be considered "inactive" and dropped from the Honors College.

GRADUATING WITH HONORS

All UWM Undergraduate Schools and Colleges now offer the Honors Degree, a special diploma awarded to students who complete Honors College requirements. Students who complete a Senior Thesis receive the special distinction "Honors with Thesis."

Graduating with an Honors Degree provides convincing evidence of outstanding academic achievement, a valuable accomplishment students can note on resumes and graduate school applications. To graduate with Honors, students must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 and accumulate at least 21 Honors credits, which can include a variety of course options. See Courses and Curriculum, pages 14-17, for

Benefits and Opportunities

Honors students receive many benefits. Among these are priority registration, designated Honors study facilities, extensive interaction with Honors faculty, and special academic and scholarship opportunities.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION

Honors students have access to priority registration. This means that Honors students may register before most other students. See **Registering for Honors Courses**, page 13, for instructions on priority registration.

HONORS COLLEGE STUDY FACILITIES

Students in the Honors College have access to a **library study room** (Golda Meir Library W204). This room is reserved for quiet study. Please contact the Honors College office (Garland 302) for the lock combination.

The **Honors College Student Center**, located in Garland Hall 310, provides a place where Honors students can socialize and study. The Student Center also serves as a meeting place for Honors student committees and provides a setting for Honors College social gatherings.

HONORS HOUSING

Once a housing contract has been issued, Honors students are eligible to apply for residency in the UWM Honors House located in Sandburg Halls. Honors Housing is meant for students who are excited about learning, who love meeting new people, and who know they can learn as much from each other as from their professors. For more information please contact University Housing at (414) 229-6123.

INTERACTION WITH HONORS COLLEGE FACULTY

Honors faculty are committed not only to teaching, but also to interacting with students in and out of the classroom. The small size of Honors classes encourages this relationship. Consequently, Honors faculty are an excellent source of advice, help, and recommendations for students pursuing scholarships, study abroad, and other academic opportunities.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

The Honors College offers several scholarships, including the **George and Julie Mosher Scholarships**, **Ed and Diane Zore Scholarships**, **Robert W. Baird Scholarships**, **KleinOowski Scholarship**, and **Study Abroad Scholarships**.

There are also annual awards such as the **Herman Weil Senior Thesis Award** that funds research expenses associated with completion of a senior thesis, and the **Honors College Essay Competition** that offers cash prizes to both freshmen and upper-level Honors students.

Information on national and international scholarships, such as the **Goldwater**, **Rhodes**, and **Mellon**, is also available. Please see an Honors College advisor if you are interested.

HONORS COLLEGE COLLOQUIUM

The Colloquium series offers speakers and programs each semester. Speakers and the audience meet in a relaxed atmosphere to share ideas on topics of general interest. Colloquia have dealt with such topics as “Bioterrorism Preparedness” and applying to Graduate School. The Colloquium series is free and open to the public.

HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Honors College Advisory Committee sets Honors policy, approves new Honors seminars, and oversees Honors College administration. Four Honors juniors or seniors are selected to serve on the Committee for one-year terms. Interested students should contact the Director or Assistant Director.

WINGSPREAD FELLOWS PROGRAM

Wingspread Conferences, which investigate issues in public affairs, the family, and education, invite leaders and distinguished scholars from America and abroad to share ideas and develop strategies for change. Each summer, Honors juniors and seniors are invited to apply for the Wingspread Fellows Program. If accepted, they can apply to attend a two to three-day conference at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin, as guests of the Johnson Foundation. This highly selective program invites only two or three students from all member universities and colleges to each of the conferences held throughout the year. Ask an Honors advisor for more information about the Wingspread Fellows Program.

“...the conference opened with an introduction of the participants. It then truly hit me how lucky I was to be there. Those assembled were some of the top experts in the world.... I was extremely impressed by the dynamism of the group. Among the participants were experts who represented the ‘reality’ of the world outside of academia....”

--Honors College Wingspread Fellow

STUDYING ABROAD

Studying abroad is an academically challenging and enjoyable way to earn Honors credits. It can enrich undergraduate education, improve chances for future opportunities, develop language skills, and provide a deeper understanding of global issues.

Honors students have studied at universities in Egypt, Russia, France, Germany, England, Scotland, Italy, Kenya, Brazil, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. To earn Honors credit while studying abroad, students must meet with an Honors College advisor **before** leaving the United States.

HONOR SOCIETIES

Because of their outstanding academic records, many Honors students are invited to join Honor societies. While Honor societies are not affiliated directly with the Honors College, the Honors staff can provide information about many societies—Phi Eta Sigma, Mortar Board, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Golden Key, to name a few—to help students decide which would be most beneficial for them. Students should refer to the Honors College web page for more information.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Current College Information

The Honors College does its best to keep students up-to-date on opportunities, events, and course offerings. It is important that you notify the Honors College office of any changes in your name, address, and telephone number, as we do not automatically receive this information from the University. This will ensure that you receive Honors College information promptly.

HONORS COLLEGE COURSE BOOK

Each semester, near the time that the UWM Schedule of Classes is available online, you will receive an Honors Course Description Book with detailed information on Honors courses offered that semester. Course descriptions include reading lists and course requirements so you know what to expect from each course. Important information about priority registration is also provided in the beginning of each book.

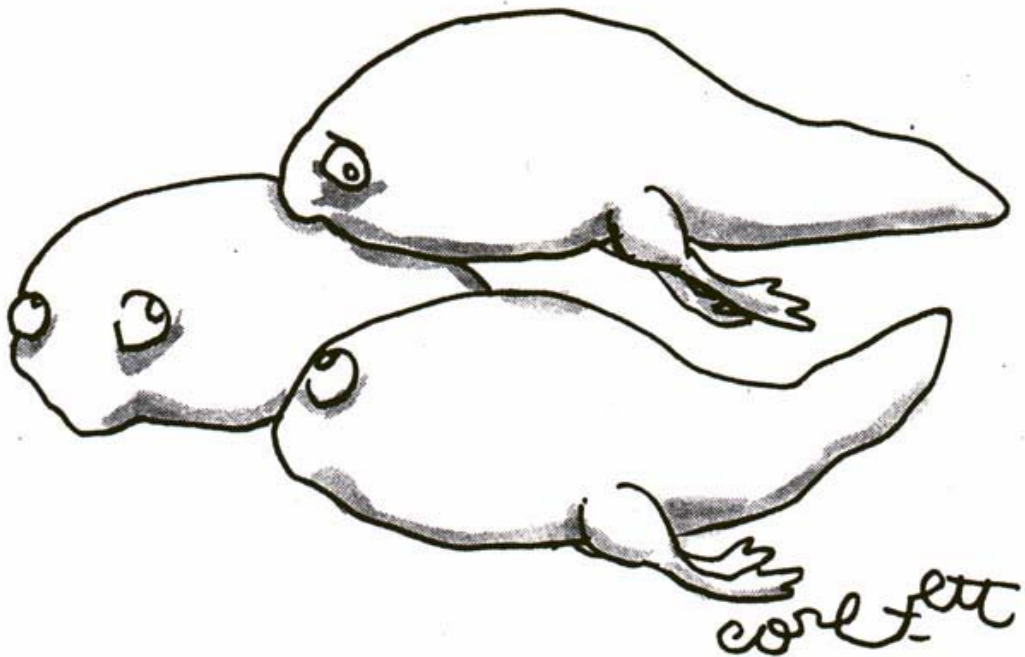
HONORS COLLEGE WEB PAGE

The Honors College's Web address is:
<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Honors>

At the Honors College's site, students can find online versions of this handbook, the Senior Thesis and Senior Project handbooks, and a current Honors Course Description Book. Also posted is a directory of Honors faculty and staff, National Honor Society pages, the Wingspread Fellows page, and information on the Honors College Student Association, Honors activities, and Independent Study and Research options.

HONORS COLLEGE LISTSERV

Honors students can receive timely information via e-mail on the Honors College listserv. The listserv provides information on events, opportunities, scholarships, and important dates. Honors students are automatically subscribed to the listserv. If you use an alternate e-mail address, be sure to forward your UWM e-mail to that account to ensure that you receive all pertinent information from the Honors College and the University at large.



THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

JACK CORBETT

"I'd like to go to law school, but I guess I'm destined to become a frog."

Advising and Support

The Honors College staff provides accessible, personalized advising to students in the College. At any time, you may stop in or make an appointment with the Director, Assistant Director, or academic advisors to discuss your academic plans. Our advisors can help you with course selection, study abroad opportunities, independent study, scholarships, graduate or professional school applications, or any other academic matter.

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Honors College Student Association (HCSA), the official student group for Honors students, offers the opportunity to get more involved with the Honors College, UWM, and the Milwaukee community. Student members of the HCSA organize many events and programs, including the Honors College Student Orientation, social events, and service activities.

All Honors students **automatically** become members of the HCSA and may attend meetings, serve on committees, and run for office in the organization (elections are held annually).

HONORS COLLEGE ORIENTATION

New freshmen Honors College students are required to attend the Honors College Orientation, held shortly before the fall semester begins. The orientation program, designed by the HCSA, gives new students the opportunity to meet HCSA officers, Honors faculty, staff, and current Honors students in an informal and informative atmosphere.

FRESHMAN ADVISING

All freshmen are required to meet with an Honors advisor before registering for classes to discuss their schedules, progress, and Honors options.

SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR REVIEW AND THE SENIOR INTERVIEW

Honors students are invited to meet with an Honors advisor during their sophomore and junior years to discuss their academic progress and plans. During these meetings, students can discuss scholarship opportunities; options for earning Honors credit, such as study abroad, independent study or research, Senior Thesis or Project; admission to graduate or professional school; or career goals.

Seniors meet with the Assistant Director to ensure that they have met Honors graduation requirements and to discuss graduate school and career plans.

HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ADVISING

The Honors College provides personal scholarship advising for students, and the Honors office houses scholarship information. Students can get help in identifying scholarships, as well as preparing essays and personal statements. This support has helped many Honors students win both local scholarships and prestigious national awards.

HONORS COLLEGE WRITING SPECIALIST

The Honors College Writing Specialist, Lydia Equitz, is available by appointment to help students plan, write, and revise essays. She also schedules periodic writing workshops which give students the opportunity to improve their writing skills through revision. Students can sign up for appointments with Lydia by going to Garland 314.

