

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

The University Honors Program is intended to help new freshmen and early career students challenge themselves and grow intellectually as they complete a flexible Honors curriculum that satisfies some of their General Education requirements. University Honors classes are small, discussion-centered, and usually open only to Honors students. They are challenging, stimulating, and fun. To graduate with University Honors, the following courses and experiences are required:

A. University Honors Laureate: 26 Credits

- HON 1190 or HON 1290 in freshman year (1 credit) (or HON 1191 for Presidential Scholars).
- An Honors version of the required Senior Seminar (4 credits). This is the seminar taken for general education credit as a junior or senior. It must be in an area outside the student's major.
- Additional, often general education-based Honors coursework (21 credits).
- Up to 12 hours can be satisfied through Departmental Honors.
- Up to 12 hours can be satisfied via any combination of
 - Reflective projects about off-campus experiences such as study abroad, internships, service, etc. (1–6 credits)
 - 5000-level classes (1–6 credits)
 - Honors courses transferred from another college or university (1–12 credits)
- Reflective projects earn waivers of required Honors credit. Between 0.5 and 6 credits can be waived for each experience depending on the intensity of the activity and the nature of the final project.

B. Honors Scholar: 15 Credits

- The EIU Honors Scholar program is aimed at students who can't fit the full 26-hour Honors Laureate program into their schedule (perhaps because they have brought in many hours of transfer or AP credit, because of a double major, or because they are joining Honors late). The 15 hours required of Honors Scholars can be satisfied through the following options:
 - University Honors coursework (3–15 credits)
 - Departmental Honors coursework (1–15 credits)
 - Honors courses transferred from another college or university (1–6 credits)

For both University Honors Laureates and Honors Scholars, the following conditions must also be met:

• Continuous Enrollment

- Students must take at least one Honors class every semester until they have earned 21 hours of Honors credit (University Honors Laureate) or until they have earned 12 hours of Honors credit (Honors Scholar). Semester-long breaks may be granted by Ms. Schmidt (smschmidt@eiu.edu).

• GPA Requirement

- Students receiving Honors College scholarships must maintain a 3.4 GPA to keep the award. All other Honors students require cumulative GPAs as listed below:
 - Freshmen (0–29 credits): 3.0 GPA
 - Sophomores (30–59 credits): 3.2 GPA
 - Juniors & Seniors (60–105 credits): 3.4 GPA
 - To be certified with Honors at graduation: 3.5 GPA

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS (FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS)

Departmental Honors consists of 12 credit hours of classes. These are primarily individualized courses that focus on research or creative activity supervised by faculty. Students pursue areas of personal interest by undertaking independent investigations of their chosen topics at a deep level. Each Departmental Honors program has its own unique requirements, though all culminate in a thesis or equivalent creative capstone project.

Admission Requirements for Departmental Honors

1. Students must earn a 3.5 or higher GPA for 12+ hours of EIU coursework. Transfer students who have not completed 12 hours at EIU but who have a 3.5 GPA or higher from their prior post-secondary institution may be recommended by their Departmental Honors Coordinator.
2. Students must meet all general and discipline-specific Departmental Honors program requirements.
3. Students must be approved by both the Departmental Honors Coordinator and the Honors College Dean.

Continuous Enrollment

Students must continue to complete Departmental Honors courses as outlined in their application. Changes in course sequence or selection must be reported to Ms. Schmidt (smschmidt@eiu.edu).

GPA Requirement

Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher to remain in the program. Students dismissed from Departmental Honors due to low GPA may request a reversal of their dismissal as soon as their cumulative GPA is at or above 3.5. Please contact Ms. Schmidt (smschmidt@eiu.edu) to request this.