

Honors Program Requirements

Grade Point Average Requirements:

Honors students are required to maintain a 3.3 cumulative GPA. Students whose cumulative GPA falls between 3.0 and 3.29 will be assigned Honors probationary status, which allows them to raise their GPA while continuing to enjoy the benefits of the Honors Program. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 are dropped from the Honors Program. An exception is allowed for first semester freshmen, who will be assigned probationary status with a GPA between 2.7 and 3.29.

Probation:

Freshmen students on Honors Probation must earn a 3.3 GPA each semester they are on probation. They must achieve a 3.3 cumulative GPA by the end of their fourth semester in order to remain in the Honors Program.

All other students on probation will have two semesters to attain a 3.3 cumulative GPA. To remain on probation during those two semesters, students must achieve at least a 3.3 semester GPA. Students who do not meet the minimum probationary GPA requirements or who fail to raise their cumulative GPA within the designated two semesters will be dropped from the Honors Program.

Exceptions for students other than first semester freshmen are made on a case-by case basis by the Honors Program staff.

Summer term is not a semester. Students are not placed on probation at the end of summer term, nor are they removed from probation. Students who believe an exception should be made can petition the Honors Program.

Participation requirements:

Honors students who are full-time (12 credit hours) must complete 3 hours of Honors coursework each semester to remain in good standing. Honors students who are part-time (less than 12 credit hours) must complete 3 hours of Honors coursework for every 15 credit hours completed.

Students must earn a grade of "C" or better in order to receive Honors credit; this includes Honors courses or courses in which a student completes an In-Course Honors Project. Students are advised not to complete Honors work in a class being taken under the Credit/No Credit option.

Hours beyond the 3 required may be used in future semesters. Hours completed in the summer are banked for use in future semesters. Students who complete 24 hours of Honors credit are exempt from further participation requirements.

Honors credit prior to admission:

Effective Fall 2010, students who earned Honors credit at Illinois State prior to being admitted to the Honors Program may consider those hours to be "banked." These banked hours, earned prior to admission, may not be used until at least a student's second semester in the program; **students must earn three hours of Honors credit in their first semester in the program.**

Exceptions to the participation requirement are made for students who will be involved in student teaching (when registered for STT 399.xx), study abroad, National Student Exchange, full-time internships or co-op experiences. Other exceptions are rare and are made on a case-by-case basis by the Honors Program staff.

Education majors:

Students are only exempt from the participation requirement the semester they are registered for Student Teaching (STT 399.xx). The first semester of the PDS program or field-based semesters are not the same as student teaching and are not exemptions from the participation requirement; plan ahead to bank hours for PDS or field-based semesters, or complete an In-Course Honors Project.

BS/MPA Accounting majors:

Once students in the BS/MPA program are classified as graduate students, they are no longer required to complete honors coursework unless they are choosing to earn an Honors designation and have not yet completed the requirements. Students are still required to have a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.3 to remain in good standing in the Honors Program; some Honors graduation designations require a higher GPA.

Suspension:

Students who do not complete 3 hours of Honors work and do not have banked hours, will be put on suspension for the following semester. During the suspension semester, students lose the privilege of early registration. In order to be removed from suspension, students must complete 3 hours of Honors work. Students do not have to make up the hours from the previous semester.

There is only one suspension semester. If students fail to complete Honors work in a future semester, they are dropped from the Honors Program and are not eligible to reapply.

Readmission to the Honors Program:

Students who have been dropped from the Honors Program as a result of not meeting grade point average requirements are eligible to reapply after their cumulative GPA has surpassed the required 3.3 minimum. Students who are successfully readmitted typically have been out of the program for two or more semesters and have shown strong semester GPAs, leading to steady improvement of the cumulative GPA. Refer to the Honors website, Prospective Students page, for instructions on how to reapply to the program.

Six Ways to Earn Honors Credit

Honors credit is designated on transcripts and grade reports with an “H” next to the Honors work completed. Students must earn a grade of “C” or higher to receive Honors credit for a course.

Honors Sections of Courses

Honors students have the option of taking Honors sections of courses. These sections are often smaller than regular sections and are taught by faculty with an interest in working with highly motivated students.

In-Course Honors

Students may earn Honors credit in a regular section of a course by completing an In-Course Honors project. This entails working beyond the course requirements to complete an extra paper, project, or experience of the student’s design. In conjunction with the instructor, the student decides on a project and submits a contract to the Honors Office.

Advanced Honors Colloquia

Advanced Honors Colloquia are seminar-type courses for which only Honors students are eligible to take. The topics of colloquia offered vary from semester to semester and from year to year. Recent topics have included: Modern Morality and Diversity in Communication. The Service Learning Colloquium is offered in the fall, spring, and summer, and includes an application process.

Students need approval from the Honors Program before they can register for Honors Colloquia.

Independent Honors Study (Course Number 299)

Independent Honors Study (IHS) allows Honors students to initiate and develop their own project or research study to complement and broaden their regular coursework. Students earn from one to six credit hours for an individual project completed under the supervision of a faculty member of the student’s choice. Registration requires an override, which is issued by the department in which the 299 is completed.

Undergraduate Research Participation (IDS 285/286)

Undergraduate Research Participation (URP) allows students to earn from one to six credit hours for participating in an ongoing faculty research project. In addition to gaining experience in research methodology, students benefit from the one-on-one interaction with faculty. Registration requires an override, which is issued by the Honors Program after the contract has been submitted.

Honors Thesis (IDS 395)

The Honors Thesis is a capstone project and a requirement for a number of departments to earn Departmental Honors. Registration requires an override, which is issued by the Honors Program after the contract has been submitted.

With the exception of Honors sections of courses and Honors Colloquia, each of these Honors experiences requires a contract, completed by both the student and supervising faculty member, to be submitted to the Honors Office. A deadline is announced at the beginning of each semester.