

University Honors Program

Director: To be named

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The University Honors Program at Lamar is designed to bring out the best in Lamar's academically talented students and to serve as a core of academic excellence within the University community. The Honors Program exists to give bright, motivated students the opportunities and environment that will enable them to develop into creative and productive people. Incoming freshmen are expected to have an SAT score of 1200 or above or a ranking in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. Students already enrolled at Lamar must have a University GPA of at least 3.5 on 12 or more academic credits to apply. Honors Program students must have a GPA of 3.25 to maintain eligibility. Applications are available in the Honors Program office or may be downloaded from the Lamar University website.

The Honors Program offers enriched classes in most of the Core Curriculum of the University, upper-level interdisciplinary classes, enhanced classes in many majors, and opportunities for Independent Study and the Honors Thesis, as detailed below. All Honors Program students, regardless of major, are encouraged to become Honors Program Graduates through accruing 23 Honors credit hours including the Honors Thesis, or 26 hours (of which 8 hours must be at the junior or senior level) without the thesis. Honors Program students are eligible for the McMaster Honors Scholarship and the Tom Jones Memorial Scholarship and are members of the Honors Student Association. Please contact the Director for further details.

The Honors Program also administers Lamar's **Scholars Development Program**, which was initiated in 2003 to provide preparation and guidance to those Lamar students who indicate both a desire and the general capability for graduate work. It is expected that Lamar will select nominees for national scholarships and fellowships from among participants in the Scholars Development Program (although not exclusively, nor will all participants necessarily receive a nomination). Students may be nominated by their professors for the Scholars Development Program and will normally enroll in HNRS 2160 (Scholars Development Seminar) by their sophomore year.

Honors Core Curriculum Classes

CHEM 1460	Honors General Chemistry*
COMM 1360	Honors Public Speaking*
ENGL 1360	Honors Composition and Rhetoric I*
ENGL 1361	Honors Composition and Rhetoric II*
ENGL 2360	Honors Sophomore Literature*
HIST 1361	Honors American History: History of the United States, 1763 to 1877*
HIST 1362	Honors American History: History of the United States since 1877*
MATH 2460	Honors Calculus and Analytic Geometry*
PHIL 1360	Honors Philosophy of Knowledge*

Equivalent

CHEM 1412 (Chemistry II)
COMM 1315
ENGL 1301
ENGL 1302
(any sophomore literature)
HIST 1301
HIST 1302
MATH 2413
PHIL 1370

* See departmental listings for detailed descriptions of these classes.

In addition to the above Honors Core classes, Lamar offers either full Honors sections or opportunities to petition for Honors credit in American Government I and II (POLS 2301 and 2302), calculus-based Physics (PHYS 2425 and 2426) and several classes that fulfill the social science and fine arts options. Occasionally, Honors sec-

tions or opportunities to petition for Honors credit are offered for other classes in a student's major degree plan. Honors credit entails course assignments in addition to (or different from) the standard course. Students should consult with individual professors or the Honors Director for details.

Other Honors Courses

All Honors students take at least two Honors Seminars (HNRS 3161). These can be taken at any time after the freshman year. Topics vary and have included "Sociolinguistics," "Machine Intelligence," "Islam," and "Cultural Studies: History of Rock 'n' Roll."

Junior- and senior-level honors credits can be earned in several ways: 1) Through upper-level Honors courses and seminars. 2) Through Honors Independent Study classes. 3) Through adding an Honors Contract to an upper-level class. 4) Through the Honors Thesis.

Upper-level Honors courses include SOCI 3360 – Honors Human Nature and the Human Condition and HNRS 4364 – Honors Topics. The latter course is offered by professors in any department who have a subject to teach that is not listed in the regular curriculum. Topics have included "Science Fiction and Fantasy," "The American Presidency," and "Literature of Redemption."

Honors Independent Study (HNRS 3360) provides the opportunity for students in any major to create a course of study that is not covered in the regular curriculum. Students often use this opportunity for independent research and creative endeavor.

The **Honors Contract** may be used to individually enhance a course in the regular curriculum for Honors credit.

The **Honors Thesis** (HNRS 4360 and 4361) permits students aiming at post-baccalaureate degrees to demonstrate clearly the ability to complete a major research/creative project. For all students, it provides the opportunity to pursue in depth an area of study or research that is personally important or intriguing. Forms and guidelines for both of these options may be secured in the Honors Program offices or downloaded from the Honors website.

Honors Student Life

In addition to offering an enriched curriculum, the Honors Program encourages and supports student research and creative activity leading to presentations and publications. The program also has a residential component in Cardinal Village and, together with our Honors Student Association, encourages participation in the cultural life of the campus and community as well as volunteer service. Honors Peer Mentors assist freshmen in making the transition to college life. For more information about Honors Program activities, please consult the Lamar University website.