

HONORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

The University of Washington Honors Program provides an academically challenging teaching and learning experience for advanced students. Using campus-wide resources and fostering a close-knit community of faculty, staff, and peers, we create a culture of opportunities that supports the development of a solid yet flexible foundation for engagement in significant and sustainable life work. The Honors Program provides an interdisciplinary general education linked to advanced Honors study in almost every department and aims to enhance, not to replace the general college experience at the University. Within the Program there are two distinct tracks, College Honors and Departmental Honors, each of which has different requirements and outcomes:

- Students who complete both the core curriculum and Departmental Honors graduate “with College Honors.”
- Students who complete only Departmental Honors graduate “with Distinction.”
- If students do not complete the departmental component, they will not receive an Honors degree, even if they have completed the Honors Core Curriculum.

College Honors

Through the Honors curriculum students complete General Education requirements as well as advanced work in their major. They should plan on taking about a third of their courses through the Honors Program, and complete the Departmental portion of the Honors requirement in their last two years at the UW to graduate with an Honors degree. The College Honors Core curriculum, which replaces the UW’s Areas of Knowledge requirements, takes approximately 50 credits to complete. Students not doing the Honors track complete 75 credits of the Areas of Knowledge. This is one of the ways in which an Honors education is beneficial—there is more time to take elective credits, study abroad, engage in research, participate in an internship, or complete a second major or a minor. Currently, Honors degrees are offered in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Business, Nursing, Ocean and Fishery Sciences, Informatics, and Forest Resources.

Departmental Honors

Specific Departmental Honors requirements vary depending on the department; students should speak with their departmental advisors to obtain current Departmental Honors guidelines. Each department has its own GPA and coursework requirements. Generally, students must have a minimum departmental GPA of 3.5 to qualify for entrance into departmental honors. Students completing only Departmental Honors must satisfy General Education requirements in addition to specific Departmental Honors requirements to graduate “with Distinction.” Following a student’s application and invitation to Departmental Honors they will gain access to the privileges of the Honors Program including Honors advising, the use of the Honors computer lab and lounge, and access to various Honors student groups and awards.

If you have further questions please contact an Honors advisor at uw honors@u.washington.edu
or check our website at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwhonors>