

University Honors College

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The University Honors College is an interdisciplinary program with courses leading to a certificate of completion in University Honors.

The University Honors College offers special courses and activities designed to help qualified students realize their full intellectual potential and to provide them the best possible preparation for their major degree programs. It does so through a wide range of special classes and interdisciplinary seminars supported by departments and faculty across campus.

A student who completes all certificate requirements also receives recognition at Honors Day as well as at graduation ceremonies. In addition, the students receive a Certificate of University Honors and special notation on official university transcripts.

Admission into the Honors College is based on the following criteria: high school GPA, SAT/ACT scores, an application essay, and a letter of recommendation from a teacher or academic advisor. All applicants are expected to have a minimum high school GPA of 3.5. Current VSU students who achieve a 3.5 GPA or better may be considered.

Requirements for Graduation with the Certificate in University Honors

- 22-26 hours in the Honors Curriculum as designated below
- 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA, and a 3.0 or higher GPA in Honors curriculum courses. Students failing to meet the GPA requirement will have a one-semester probation period to continue their enrollment in the Honors College.

Global Experience and Understanding Requirement

All students in the Honors College must complete the Global Experience and Understanding requirement with an approved research activity, service learning assignment, or field experience. The semester-long commitment fosters understanding of global and cultural issues. In the spirit of the Honors interdisciplinary approach, research, service, and minor program activities will be considered. These activities must be approved by the Honors College.

Selected Educational Outcomes

1. Students will learn the arts of inquiry and conversation, culminating in structured research and creative endeavors, academic writing, oral presentations, and creative production.
2. Students will practice the organizational skills of collaboration, planning, and assessment, and the personal skills of self-discipline and task management, culminating in the capacity to guide or direct group-based work.
3. Students will understand the importance of civic involvement and giving back to the larger community, culminating in occasions of service that draw upon scholarship, creativity, and leadership capacities.
4. Students will incorporate an understanding of diverse global and cultural perspectives in their scholarly or creative inquiry, culminating in an international exchange of ideas and activities.
5. Students will incorporate an understanding of diverse disciplinary perspectives in their scholarly/creative inquiry, culminating in a collaborative, interdisciplinary project.

Examples of Outcome Assessments

1. Students will provide evidence of their accomplishments related to each area of the five educational outcomes previously listed and present the evidence in a portfolio.
2. Students will participate in at least one research/creative endeavor forum to present their work.
3. Students will provide evidence of their understanding of global perspectives.
4. Students will provide documentation of and reflection on at least one sustained community service activity.
5. Students will complete a capstone project that will be presented at an interdisciplinary forum.

Requirements for the Certificate in University Honors in Interdisciplinary Studies

First Year

HONS 1990	Honors Introductory Seminar	2
Two core Honors courses		5-8

Second Year

HONS 2010	Honors Colloquium	2
One core Honors course or one Honors major course		3-4
HONS 2990	Experiential Activity	0

Third Year		
HONS 3999	Introduction to Honors Research	3
or HONS 3990	Honors Capstone Seminar	
Two Honors major courses		6
Fourth Year		
HONS 4990	Honors Senior Portfolio	1-3
Total Hours		22-26

HONS 3990 may be taken to satisfy one of the Honors major requirements, with the approval of the major department and the Dean of the Honors College, and may satisfy elective credit for some majors. In addition, the Honors College offers a seminar and an independent study course (HONS 4000), which may satisfy elective credit or, in some cases, capstone requirements in a variety of major degree programs (must be approved by the Dean of the Honors College).

Honors students may substitute an experiential learning project (HONS 2990) for an Honors major course requirement. All substitutions must be approved by the Dean of the Honors College. The Honors College provides specific guidelines for semester-long experiential learning projects on the Honors website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/honors>).

Courses not listed as Honors may also be available for Honors credit through the Honors Option (HONS 3330). This option allows students to receive Honors credit while enrolled in regular courses by doing different types of assignments approved in advance by the instructor of the course and the Dean of the Honors College. Honors Options must be approved no later than the last day of the second week of classes.