


HONORS PROGRAM COURSES



"Where there is much desire to learn, there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions, for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making."
John Milton

Requirements For Completion Of The Bachelor's Degree With College Honors

Although the Honors Program is designed to be entered upon in the Freshman year and completed over four years, admission is possible at any point up to the middle of the Junior year.

For graduation with College Honors, all regular College requirements for a Bachelor's degree must be fulfilled. In addition, as part of the 124 units required for the Bachelor's degree, a student earning College Honors must complete 39 units in the following courses:

- I. Honors 101, 102, 203, 204
Core Course: Changing Images of Human Beings, Nature and God (An interdisciplinary 4-semester sequence of 12 units; credit applicable towards College General Education requirements)
- II. Two Satellite Seminars chosen from two of the following areas:
Symbolics: Honors 111, 112, 213, 214
Science: Honors 121, 122, 223, 224
- III. Honors 150 or 250 Interterm Experience (3 units)
- IV. Honors 301 Leadership Seminar (3 units)
- V. Honors 480 Independent Study in student's major (3 units; credit applicable towards major requirements)
- VI. Honors 490 Senior Project in student's major (3 units; credit applicable towards major requirements)
- VII. Honors 401 Senior Colloquium (3 units)

Expressions: Honors 131, 132, 233, 234
Values: Honors 141, 142, 243, 244
(6 units; credit applicable toward College General Education requirements)

Original program requirements

Early 1980s

In the beginning, Honor students took classes that focused on the general theme of the changing images of human beings, nature and God. The general foundations of contemporary civilization were explored, with an emphasis on investigating historical responses to the human condition and appreciating the integration of knowledge.

An early brochure (at left) indicates that to graduate with College Honors, students had to complete 36 units of Honors courses.

The 1990s

In 1990, according to a brochure, the Honors curriculum consisted of four interdisciplinary core courses, two specialized satellite seminars, and a senior project.

The four core courses:

- God, Gods and Ultimate Values
- In Search of Self
- In Search of Relationships
- The Good Society

Satellite seminars offered by other departments:

- Makers of Modern Culture
- Integrity, Ideology and Education
- Sensation, Perception and Models of Mind
- Women in Literature and Art
- Taming of the Monkey Mind

Early changes

- Over time, the two-satellite course requirement increased to three, along with an Independent Study and Senior Project.
- The Good Society was deleted. Added was In Search of Knowledge, which encompassed the sciences and included a lab. The lab was dropped because no faculty members were available to run it. In 2000, the lab was reinstated as a result of a Keck Foundation Grant.
- Core class offerings were increased to six, with the addition of In Search of Reality and In Search of People in Nature. The additions added some flexibility for teaching loads of professors.
- God, Gods and Ultimate Values was renamed in fall 2000 as In Search of the Meaning of Life.

Refinements continue

- It was determined that the graduation requirements were too demanding for such a busy group of students.
- In 1998, the faculty decided to reduce the minor by 6 credits, to 18.
 - The satellite requirement was dropped to two courses.



Students presenting research at an Honors conference

- The Independent Study and the Senior Project were replaced by a combined Senior Project/Seminar.
- Satellites were combined into 7 topics areas: travel, social and historical, cross cultural, philosophy and religion, literature and film, science and technology, art and communication.
- A one-unit Honors Forum was added in 1997-98. The class provided a place for Honors students to meet weekly and also provided time for event planning, speakers, service learning and presentations. Students giving presentations at national or regional Honors conferences used this time to prepare their presentations.
- In 2007-08, the number of core courses was increased in order to focus on Honors-taught classes, and the satellite courses were eliminated.

Course offerings from sample years:

1981-82	1998-99	2007-08
The Good Society	In Search of Knowledge	In Search of Knowledge
In Search of Self	In Search of Self	In Search of Self
In Search of Relationships	In Search of Relationships	In Search of Relationships
God, Gods, and Ultimate Values	Gods, God and Ultimate Values	In Search of the Meaning of Life
	Honors Forum	In Search of Leadership
Satellites	Intern Program	In Search of Universal Geometry
	Senior Project	In Search of Reality: Media, Self, Society
	Independent Study	In Search of People in Nature
		In Search of American Folklife
	Satellites	In Search of Cultural Mythology
		In Search of Global Families
		Honors Forum
		Honors Book Forum
		Honors Capstone Senior Seminar
		Independent Internship
		Independent Study

2009 to present

The Honors Program underwent major revision in 2009 and a newly designed program was launched for the 2009-10 academic year. A new curriculum was drafted, new courses were approved and its status as a minor was dropped.

The heart of the current University Honors Program is a flexible liberal arts curriculum divided into four main areas of Honors Core courses:

- Arts and Letters
- Mathematics, Science, and Technology
- Religious and Philosophical Studies
- Social and Historical Studies

Honors students complete a total of 8 Honors courses, including the senior capstone, with a minimum of one course in each of the Honors Core areas. The Honors



A.J. Lepore gives his capstone.

courses satisfy the GE Inter/Multidisciplinary Cluster. Select courses may also satisfy major, minor or other GE and/or elective requirements.

An annual Honors Conference was added in 2010 and is held every May to showcase senior capstone projects to fellow students, colleagues and the public. It is followed by a lunch and presentation of graduation stoles.

New courses are added each year, endeavoring to include offerings from every discipline across campus. In 2011-12, the 1-credit Honors Forum was revived, to serve as a place to build academic community through discussion and joint experiences.

Courses offered after revision:

2009-10	2010-11
On Being Ethical in the World	On Being Ethical in the World
African Words, African Women	African Words, African Women
Media, Self and Society	Media, Self and Society
Universal Geometry	Universal Geometry
Death, Self and Society	Death, Self and Society
Hermes Unbound: Divining Hermeneutics	Monsters and Monstrosities
Literature in Translation	Art and Anthropology
Exploring Mythology	Exploring Mythology
American Storytellers	American Storytellers
Imaging Gender in Classical Art	Imaging Gender in Classical Art
Ethnicity, Race and Nationalism	Ethnicity, Race and Nationalism
The God Question	The God Question
Visual Literacy in a Generation of Visible Surplus	Visual Literacy in a Generation of Visible Surplus
Applications and Research in Computational Sciences	Applications and Research in Computational Sciences
The New Mathematics of the Italian Renaissance	The New Mathematics of the Italian Renaissance
New Voices in U.S. Literature	The Ecology of Sustainable Food
Foundations of Economic Exchange	The Birth of Calculus: History of an Idea
The History of Cities	Creativity and the Human Condition
New Media: A Practical Seminar	Rhetorics of Western Consciousness
The Global and the Local	The Enigma of Being Awake: Zen Buddhism
Rethinking Renaissance Visual Culture	New Voices in U.S. Literature
A History of the Future	Foundations of Economic Exchange
Themes in Political Theory	The History of Cities
Capstone Senior Seminar	New Media: A Practical Seminar
	The Global and the Local
	Rethinking Renaissance Visual Culture
	A History of the Future
	Themes in Political Theory
	Hermes Unbound: Divining Hermeneutics
	Credit, Growth and Economic Cycles
	Literature in Translation
	Capstone Senior Seminar

