

Honors Catalog copy: college and curriculum overview 1.23.19

Tabled for discussion 12.6.18; Revised 1.23.19

Note: Text may need to be reorganized to accommodate catalog layout and web layout.

This copy is provided to the faculty committee for review and editing recommendations for language used to describe the college and curriculum including new articulation of breadth and/or depth of study. For a comparable curriculum that informs this language, see the Model Curriculum Overview from University of Massachusetts Commonwealth Honors College.

Current Catalog Copy

The Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College aims to prepare student for innovative work in a complex society, to engage students across campus in intellectual inquiry and debate and to support exploration, discovery, and community service. Honors students pursue meaningful work in honors seminars and interdisciplinary tracks. They apply what they have learned in class to honors research and creative activity, internships, student exchange and study abroad.

Honors Values

Members of the Cohen Honors College community uphold four pillars, aiming to be:

Innovative

Innovative people solve problems creatively. They spot needs and take risks that their proposals will satisfy those needs. Innovation often requires bringing together the people, resources and expertise to develop new solutions, a sense of entrepreneurship. Innovation frequently involves interdisciplinary applications—borrowing from one field of endeavor to solve problems in another.

Professional

Professionals get results while committing them-selves to high standards. Professionals do a good job for the sake of it. Professionals persevere in passionate pursuit of long-term goals. Professionalism requires personal integrity and commitment to ethical standards. Professionals work well with colleagues.

Intellectual

The intelligent person masters the knowledge of a chosen specialty but also knows the value of knowledge from many other disciplines. An intelligent person masters cognitive skills: remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating and synthesizing information. An intelligent person acquires practical skills, whether they be reading, writing, speaking a first or foreign language, working with numbers, handling machines, learning a musical instrument, etc. A true intellectual, however, is not simply a person who knows a lot or gets good grades. An intellectual is an intelligent person with a passion for and interest in knowledge, wisdom and inquiry. Intellectuals are curious about much and life-long learners.

Transformational

Transformational people strive to make a positive difference for a better world, a better community. Transformational people commit themselves passionately to a cause larger than themselves, put themselves in service to others, and practice good citizenship. They open their minds to the diverse views of others and deliberate the issues. After proper deliberation and reflection, they are decisive and bold in action. In the process, they inspire others to transform the world around them as well, leading by example most of all.

Policies

Admission Requirements

- For students with fewer than 24 college credit hours: a minimum high school GPA of 3.700, or a composite ACT score of 27 (SAT 1220)* or better.
- For students with 24 or more college credit hours: a minimum GPA from college credit hours of 3.500, or a composite ACT score of 27 (SAT 1220)* or better.

Students who have a passion for learning but who do not meet the admission requirements may petition the Honors College for special admission. For more information, contact the Honors College office by email: honors@wichita.edu, or phone (316) 978-3375.

* SAT scores (critical reading and math only) are converted to ACT scores by the WSU admissions office.

Proposed Catalog Copy

About the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College

The Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College aims to prepare student for innovative work in a complex society, to engage students across campus in intellectual inquiry and debate and to support exploration, discovery, and community service. Honors students pursue meaningful work in honors seminars and interdisciplinary tracks. They apply what they have learned in class to honors research and creative activity, internships, student exchange and study abroad.

Opportunities for all Undergraduate Students

In cooperation with academic departments across campus and the Office of Student Involvement, Honors also facilitates several programs open to all undergraduate students including:

- the [Undergraduate Student Research and Creative Activity grants](#) program,
- the [First-Year Research Experience](#) program,
- credit for applied learning through [Alternative Breaks](#) and [Leadership](#) programs, and
- mentorship for competitive postgraduate scholarship applications such as the Fulbright, Marshall, Truman, and Rhodes.

Any student may [request to take one Honors seminar or department honors course](#) before applying to be a member of the college.

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Policies*Admission Requirements*

Admission to Honors is determined by a competitive application process that requires a personal statement and:

- For students with fewer than 24 college credit hours: a minimum high school GPA of 3.700, or a composite ACT score of 27 (SAT 1240)* or better.
- For students with 24 or more college credit hours: a minimum GPA from college credit hours of 3.500, or a composite ACT score of 27 (SAT 1240)* or better.

Students who have a passion for learning but who do not meet the admission requirements may indicate on the Honors application that they would like to be considered special exception. For more information, contact the Honors College office by email: honors@wichita.edu, or phone (316) 978-3375.

* SAT scores (critical reading and math only) are converted to ACT scores by the WSU admissions office.

Transfer Credit Policy

Students who transfer to WSU having completed all or part of an honors program at another university, college or community college should speak to the Honors College advisor about having those credits counted toward an honors distinction at WSU.

A student may transfer up to 50% of coursework from another Honors program or college toward requirements for any Wichita State University Honors track.

Honors Curriculum: Graduating with an Honors Distinction

The Cohen Honors College offers multiple honors distinctions, ranging from a 12-credit Emory Lindquist Honors Scholar transcript distinction, to a 12-credit Interdisciplinary Honors Tracks, to a 24-credit minor in university honors, to an Honors Baccalaureate (HB) conferred by the Honors College. The Honors Baccalaureate is the highest academic honor a student can receive on a WSU diploma.

Graduation with an Honors College distinction is evidence of a commitment to academic growth beyond the requirements of the general college degree. Students in any major may complete one or more Honors tracks to earn an Honors distinction.

Students who graduate with an Honors College distinction receive:

- Acknowledgment at the University's Commencement exercises,
- Notation on the transcript or diploma, depending on the requirements completed, and
- Lifelong love of learning!

Curriculum Overview

Cohen Honors College students are expected to develop broad perspectives and/or engage in deep analysis through a curriculum comprised of **General Studies (Breadth of Study)** and **Advanced Scholarship (Depth of Study)** tracks.

General Studies

The General Studies **Emory Lindquist Honors Scholar track** exposes student to foundational concepts and recent developments in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and/or sciences. These breadth of study tracks require students to:

- Engage in inquiry-based learning in at least one special-topics honor seminar or science lab, and
- Engage in independent or collaborative research or creative activity.

Most general studies track requirements fulfill university general education requirements or meet prerequisites or requirements for the major.

Advanced Scholarship

Interdisciplinary Honors (Law and Public Policy, Leadership, or Self-Designed) and Departmental Honors tracks engage students in depth of study and are traditionally undertaken during junior and senior years.

- Interdisciplinary tracks, whether in a determined area of study or proposed by the student, require coursework in two or more areas of academic interest.
- Honors in the student's major (Departmental Honors) provides additional coursework and/or development of professional capacities with the guidance of faculty mentors in the department.
- All honors advanced scholarship tracks require either an applied learning experience and reflection or a thesis or capstone project completed by the end of the senior year.

University Honors

The **University Honors minor and diploma notation** is awarded to students who complete both a **General Studies** and **Interdisciplinary Honors Advanced Scholarship** track. Some advanced scholarship track requirements overlap with general education requirements and major requirements. Students must complete 3 unduplicated credits in a minor program of study.

Honors Baccalaureate

The **Honors Baccalaureate (self-designed major)** is a unique degree program that gives highly motivated and self-directed students the opportunity to design their own major. As an alternative to traditional majors, the HB allows students to select two or three concentrations in any existing area of study. Students, with the help of faculty advisors, select courses on the basis of a unifying issue, topic, or career goal. The HB requires a Thesis or Capstone Project completed by the end of the senior year.