

IUS Honors Program FAQ

Q: What qualities does the Honors Program look for in its students?

The Honors Program invites highly motivated students who seek a stimulating and exciting academic experience and formal recognition for completing a challenging program.

Q: My test scores and/or GPA are not perfect. Can I still be considered for the Honors Program?

A: Absolutely. The Honors Program at IUS seeks to augment student's university experience. While the program director and council expect to see evidence of interest, potential, achievement, and an excellent work ethic, they also are aware that some students are just beginning to find their academic and intellectual stride.

Q: I will be an incoming freshman next fall. How do I apply for the Honors Program?

A: Prospective students may complete an application for tier one of the Honors Program when they apply for admission to the university. These applications are considered year-round; however, if one hopes to receive a Chancellor's Honors Program Scholarship, it's best to apply as soon as possible.

Q: I am a current student at IUS. How can I become a part of the Honors Program?

A: Current students may apply for admission to tier two of the Program at any time.

Q: What does the application process entail?

A: Any student wishing to join the Honors Program should complete an application, indicating whether he wishes to apply for tier one or tier two. An informal interview with the program director and the council may also be requested.

Q: What is tier one of the Honors Program?

A: Students in tier one of the honors program complete the two semester first year seminar sequence, complete at least two other multidisciplinary Honors courses, participate in a group project during their second year, and maintain a cumulative GPA of, we hope, at least 3.4. Completion of tier one leads to the University Honors Minor.

Q: What is tier two of the Honors Program?

A: Students in tier two of the honors program complete 12-15 hrs. of course work, which includes 300-level Honors Program seminars and pursuing one of three options: the Honors Research Minor, the Discipline-Based Honors Major, or the Individualized Honors Curriculum, which is designed with the program director and appropriate faculty members. Completion of tier two leads to the designation of University Honors Scholar.

Q: How many students are in the Honors Program?

A: As of Spring 2008, the Program has 78 members, and our numbers are growing.

Q: Does the Honors Program involve extra classes?

A: Honors 103 and 104 are designed to fulfill multiple general education requirements. The 300-level courses fulfill elective requirements. Students who participate in both Tier one and Tier two will find that since Honor 103 and 104 fulfill four General Education requirements, they can easily accommodate two 300-level seminars, even with the most credit-heavy major.

Q: Can Honors Program Students participate in internship programs and study abroad opportunities?

A: The honors program not only allows students to take advantage of internship and study abroad opportunities; the program encourages it.

Q: What types of research opportunities are available to Honors Program students?

A: Numerous opportunities for research are available. For example, students in tier one of the program are encouraged to develop research projects to be presented at the Upper Midwest Honors Conference. Honors Program students may also choose to take advantage of campus wide opportunities such as the Undergraduate Research Fellowships, the IUS Student Conference, and the Undergraduate Research Journal.

Q: How will having been in the Honors Program benefit me after graduation?

A: Whether you continue your education or enter the workforce, being a member of the Honors Program will have provided you with valuable skills which will be directly relevant to both academic and professional pursuits. Further, the close working relationships students will have developed with the Director and other HP faculty members will make them natural choices for careers advice and/or references.

Q: Is there a student organization for Honors students?

A: The Honors Program Student Activity Board (HPSAB) is a very active group which frequently organizes student events, including movies, fundraising events, and volunteer activities.

Q: Do I have to take all Honors courses?

A: No. It's expected that Tier one students will take both Honors 103 and 104, and that they ought to take them in sequence; however, as long as Tier two students, and those participating in both Tiers take the required number of 300-level courses and fulfill their other HP obligations, they need not feel obligated to take every course on offer.

Q: What are Honors faculty members like?

A: As each member of the Honors faculty must submit detailed course proposals before teaching a course, students can be assured that they'll be instructed by the best of the best. Courses are taught by a variety of professors from across our campus, providing students with a variety of opportunities.

Q: What enrichment activities and co-curricular events are offered by the Program?

A: Throughout each semester, Honors Students will be invited to participate in numerous enrichment activities, including workshops offering information about financial aid and academic planning, presentations given by fellow students on a variety of topics, and informative sessions hosted by faculty and staff.

Q: Are Honors courses more difficult than non-Honors courses?

A: As with anything in life, the greater the challenge, the greater the reward. As Honors classes offer smaller class sizes than other courses, individual interaction between professors and students is possible. Having smaller class sizes also increases the level of student-to-student interaction, often resulting in study groups and other support networks. AS for the question of whether the courses are *harder*. I think it's fair to say that the courses are *different*, rather than harder.

Q: Will my GPA be lowered by my participation in the Honors Program?

A: It's very unlikely that your GPA would be lowered. See above.

Q: What criteria must I meet in order to remain in the Honors Program?

A: We ask that you remain active and in good standing. Remaining in good standing in the Program requires that you take and complete an Honors Program course or be working in some other way that has been sanctioned by the Honors Program Director toward your chosen Honors track at least three semesters out of every four. It also expects that you will generally keep your university GPA at or above a 3.4

Q: Are there additional scholarship opportunities for Honors students?

A: Honors Students are eligible to apply for the Chancellor's Honors Program Scholarship.

Q: Are Honors students isolated from non-Honors students on campus?

A: While Honors classes are restricted to Program members, the Honors Program regularly participates in campus-wide events such as volunteer and community activities.

Q: Will participation in the Honors Program help me get into graduate school?

A: Your participation in the Honors Program is a reflection of your commitment to academic and personal success, and this commitment will certainly aid you in post-graduate pursuits.

Q: Can I withdraw from the Honors Program if I decide that it's not for me?

A: While we hope this isn't the case, if you should choose to withdraw from the program, it is at your discretion to do so. However, we do recommend a meeting with the Program Director to discuss all options as we hope withdrawal would be a last resort.

Q: Are there additional costs associated with Honors coursework?

A: No extra costs!

Q: Do AP credits count in the Honors Program?

A: We congratulate you on taking AP courses and performing well on the examination. Grades on the AP are not counted towards Honors requirements.

Q: May I talk to someone about the Honors Program?

A: Absolutely! You may contact the HP Office Assistant by phone at (812) 941-2587 or by email at iushp@ius.edu to set up a meeting with Dr. Salas, the Honors Program Director.