

# THE HONORS COMMUNITY

The Honors Community at Union University is designed to engage academically talented students in conversations across disciplines that highlight the breadth and unity of knowledge while also exposing them to the depth of knowledge within a given discipline. Foundational to this design is the University's commitment to the unity of knowledge within the Christian intellectual tradition. Conversations across disciplines occur within the context of an Honors Colloquia series; in-depth analyses occur through strategies within Honors Curricula, primarily the use of Honors Contracts.

Participation in the Honors Community is open to all students. All members of the greater learning community, as well as the public, would be invited to participate in Honors Colloquia. Showcasing conversations across disciplines, the Colloquia will spark interest in qualified students who will be enticed to pursue more in-depth studies through formal admission into an honors program.

Formal participation in the Honors Community will afford students the benefits of Honors Student status, including enrollment in honors-designated classes for credit, additional scholarship support, grants for research and travel, mentoring by a faculty member, and ultimately, designation as an Honors graduate. However, students who have a particular interest in a subject may take honors contracts in a course without formal admission into the program.

## Honors Curricula

Union University is currently expanding opportunities for students to have honors level academic experiences. Beginning in the Fall of 2008, students may pursue honors level work in their major. Moreover, Union is currently researching proposals to provide students the opportunity to conduct honors level work in the core and hopes to have a program operating shortly.

## Discipline Specific Honors

To be eligible for admission in discipline specific honors, students must have an overall cumulative 3.5 GPA after completing or transferring at least 15 credit hours into Union and meet any specific department requirements. Students not meeting these requirements may petition the department directly for admission into departmental honors.

To graduate with discipline specific honors, students must attend at least four honors colloquia during their junior year and four honors colloquia during their senior year, complete 12 hours of honors courses in the major, complete an honors project/thesis in their major, maintain a 3.5 GPA, and fulfill any other requirements established by the department. These departmental requirements are listed on the honors website at [www.uu.edu/academics/coas/intstudies/](http://www.uu.edu/academics/coas/intstudies/).

## Minors in Interdisciplinary Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies

Members of departments across the University serve as faculty and mentors for students in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. The program is designed to be challenging and intensive. For this reason, only select persons are invited to participate: 1) Freshmen students with an ACT(e) of 25 or higher or a record of excellence in academic work, and 2) second semester freshmen who have a 3.5 GPA. Transfer or other students who desire admission must petition the Director. The final decision to admit any student rests with the Interdisciplinary Honors Council (IHC), which is appointed by the Provost for the purpose of determining the program's policies, standards, guidelines, and goals.

Students admitted into the program are expected to maintain a grade average of "B" or better in all Honors courses. Students who fall below this expectation will be placed on probation, and their status in the program will be subject to review by the IHC. If the IHC determines that a student's work fails to satisfy the program's standards, the IHC may suggest that the student pursue the Interdisciplinary Studies Minor (see below) as an alternative to the Minor in Interdisciplinary Honors.

Inquires about the Minor in Interdisciplinary Honors and the Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies should be made to Dr. Randall Bush.

## Minor in Interdisciplinary Honors—18 hours

- I. **Interdisciplinary Core Requirements—12 hours**
  - A. HON 210 and 220—Freshmen year
  - B. HON 320 and 340—Sophomore year
- II. **Electives Include: opportunities for travel and study abroad, study with the Scholar-in-Residence, and approved courses across the University—2 hours**
- III. **HON 411—4 hours**

The capstone of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program is the writing of the Honors thesis, a major project that is expected to be of the highest quality.

## Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies—18 semester hours

The Interdisciplinary Studies minor was designed for students who determine in the course of pursuing the Interdisciplinary Honors minor that they are unable, for whatever reason, to undertake or complete the writing of a thesis. This minor is an alternative open only to students officially accepted into the Honors Program.

- I. **Interdisciplinary Core Requirements—12 hours**
  - A. HON 210 and 220—Freshmen year
  - B. HON 320 and 340—Sophomore year
- II. **Electives: Opportunities for overseas travel and study, study with the Scholar-in-Residence, and approved interdisciplinary courses across the University.**

## Scholar-in-Residence Program

A scholar of worldwide reputation is invited each year to deliver a series of lectures at the University. Students may take the Scholar-in-Residence course which involves research, writing, and tutorials. Prerequisites: HON 210 and 220.

## Student Organization

Incorporated into the Interdisciplinary Honors Program is the **Honors Student Association (HSA)** whose purpose is to serve as the social arm of the program. It functions as any social organization does, choosing officers from the student participants and organizing functions to further the academic programs of the minor. Any participant in an Honors class is eligible for membership in HSA; additionally any student interested in the program is invited to attend as a non-voting member.

## Student Awards

The **Honors Student of the Year** Awards are presented to the students active in the Program who have shown the most intellectual and perceptive growth in the year's time. The awards are determined by the Honors Council.

## Course Offerings in Honors (HON)

( ) Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

### 210. Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies (3) F

Influences and processes contributing to the formation of worldviews and their alteration through time. Students will be taught how to live appreciatively within given cultural and theoretical perspectives and to evaluate these critically. Encouragement to think creatively about the interrelation between the disciplines of the university, and about the implications of the fields of human inquiry for Christian faith and practice, will help students to develop a worldview toward taking their place as leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 220. Great Ideas (3) S

Prerequisite: HON 210.

The interdisciplinary nature of the ideas, thoughts, and theories of human culture by examination of many of

the great ideas of the Western cultural and intellectual heritage that are important for the humanities, natural and social sciences, arts, and professional studies. The interdependence of ideas will be considered along with the way ideas operate in a variety of unique historical and cultural contexts. This course will progress from a survey of Western cultural and intellectual history to presentation of papers by students in a seminar fashion.

### 320. Great Books I (3) F

Prerequisite: HON 220.

Seminal works from the fields of philosophy, theology, history, literature, the natural sciences, or the social sciences will be studied with attention to ways these works reflect historical trends, political situations, philosophical ideas, cultural and religious traditions, and socioeconomic conditions. Students will be encouraged to think critically and creatively about these works by considering them from intellectual and cultural perspectives that lie outside the framework to which they belong.

### 340. Great Books II (3) S

Prerequisite: HON 320

Students will critically assess significant books related to their major field of study, including those that will help them formulate ethical principles to aid them in the practice of their profession. The Director will determine the book list for each student by consulting with his/her department. Students will meet for lectures during the early part of the semester, but for the most part they engage in research and writing concluding in a presentation paper focusing upon one book.

### 411. Thesis (4) On Demand

Prerequisite: Interdisciplinary Core—12 hours.

The thesis shall be presented and defended before a committee of three faculty members appointed by the IHC. Students should choose a topic by the end of their sophomore year and submit a proposal by the beginning of their junior year, leaving the junior and senior years open for research and writing. Students will sign up for the thesis during the first semester of their senior year. The thesis may be done in conjunction with senior performance requirements already established by such departments as Music, Art, Biology, Chemistry and others at the discretion of the IHC and the department.

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One or more of the following courses must be chosen to fulfill the requirements of the program. All are subject to the approval of the IHC unless otherwise stated in the published schedule of class offerings.

### 179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

### 180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

### 195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

### 295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

### 395-6-7. Special Studies (2 or 3)

Upper level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings. Includes, but not restricted to, offerings of the Scholar-in-Residence Program.

### 495-6-7. Independent Studies (2-4)

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).