

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I required to live in the living-learning community during my freshman year?

- No, the living-learning community is optional for students in the Honors, Leadership, and Arrupe Programs.

Does AP (or other) credit count toward required Honors classes?

- In almost every case, yes. The only Honors Program course that is required regardless of incoming credit is HP101: Life of the Mind, which replaces the EN125 requirement. More than a composition course, HP101 is an important introduction to the Honors Program. If you have AP (or other) credit that would replace EN125, you will receive elective EN credits. Thus, those credits will be reflected on your transcript. For all other courses, if you would receive transfer credit for a non-Honors course based on incoming credits, then those credits can also be applied to a required Honors course (e.g., CO125 H).

Are Honors classes harder than non-Honors classes?

- Yes and no. Honors classes are meant to provide you with more challenging and engaging work; they are typically smaller in size than non-Honors classes and more discussion-based. They are not intended to simply provide you with more work or be about covering more material in less time. The standards for grading in an Honors course should not differ from a non-Honors course. The work you do in an Honors course is what differentiates it from a non-Honors course, not the grading standards. Thus, the average grade in an Honors course is typically higher than the average grade in a non-Honors course with both Honors and non-Honors students.

Does participating in the Honors Program make it more difficult to be involved in other activities or pursue multiple programs of study?

- No. In fact, we encourage Honors Program students to be actively engaged in other campus activities/ organizations. Our students belong to and hold leadership positions in a variety of student organizations across campus and many are involved in athletics. The vast majority of our students add one or two minors (or a double major) to their courses of study; many also spend a semester abroad.

Do I have to have a 3.5 GPA or higher every semester?

- No. The expectation is that you will have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 by the time you graduate. However, GPA requirements differ based on your class standing. At the end of the academic year, freshman should have at least a 3.2, sophomores a 3.3, and juniors a 3.4. By the end of fall semester senior year, you should have at least a 3.45 cumulative GPA.

Will I be removed from the Honors Program if my GPA falls below the requirements just listed?

- No, not immediately. If your GPA falls between a 3.0 and the minimum based on your class rank, you will be placed on academic watch prior to any removal decisions. Only if your cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 is dismissal without academic watch considered.