

# Honors College

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## DEAN

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[www.txstate.edu/honors](http://www.txstate.edu/honors)

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The Honors College provides a community for students from all majors. Students can take advantage of eclectic and challenging interdisciplinary courses designed by professors in fields such as physics, mathematics, the humanities, poetry, business, or the arts. In these small seminar-type classes, students discuss ideas and raise questions stimulated by readings, field trips, and presentations. Honors classes aim to promote interdisciplinary inquiry, creativity, and a lifetime love of learning. Through the Honors Independent Study, the Honors Contract course and the Honors Thesis, students can also design their own course of study.

The Honors College encourages students to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards such as the Truman graduate scholarships, and Honors faculty assist students applying to graduate schools. The college offers study abroad experiences and encourages students to participate. Additionally, the Honors College participates in the Texas State "Common Experience" program through programming, art exhibits, and courses which connect to the theme.

The Honors College is housed in the historic Lampasas building, adjacent to Old Main. The space includes seminar rooms, a student computer lab, a conference room, offices for staff and student academic organizations and the Honors Coffee Forum - a large area for coffee, conversation, study, and events completely surrounded by the Gallery of the Common Experience art exhibits.

## APPLICATION

The Honors College accepts students on a rolling admissions basis. To apply, go to [www.txstate.edu/honors/applynow.html](http://www.txstate.edu/honors/applynow.html). Entering 1st year students from the top 10 percent of their graduating class, or those with a composite score of 27 on the ACT or 1180 on the SAT (Math + Verbal), are eligible to apply for admission to the college. Transfer or currently enrolled students with a GPA of at least 3.25 are also eligible to apply.

## GRADUATION

Students wishing to graduate in the Honors College now have two avenues available for doing so: (1) the traditional Honors College route, where students complete at least five Honors courses (15 hours), including the Honors Thesis and (2) a minor in Honors Studies, where students complete at least seven honors courses (21 hours), including the Senior Seminar and the Honors Thesis. All Honors College students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25 to remain in and to graduate from the program. Students may elect



to participate in the Honors College curriculum and community without completing Honors graduation requirements.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

Honors College students receive access to early registration each semester. Students may receive travel assistance from the college to present research at regional and national conferences and are eligible for scholarships and research support awarded through the Honors College.

The Honors Thesis (a requirement to graduate in the college) allows students to design a research or creative project that they complete under the supervision of a professor who is an expert in the research area. Students present their theses in an undergraduate thesis forum, and completed theses are added to the collection of Alkek Library. Students use the experience of completing an Honors Thesis in their applications to graduate school and/or applications for post graduate work.

Texas State rewards completion of the Honors College requirements with name and thesis title included in the Commencement program, a special transcript annotation, and an Honors College certificate as a supplement to the diploma. The Honors College also provides a special medallion to its graduates, especially suited for wearing at Commencement.

## PROGRAM FACULTY

The Honors College builds on the strength of master teacher-scholars from across the campus, including persons who have garnered Presidential Excellence awards, Piper Professor and other state/national teaching awards, Fulbright Fellowships, and awards for their writing, research, and service contributions. Current faculty are listed on the website.

## Courses in Honors (HON)

New courses in the Honors College are created continually, a process that ensures innovative, thoughtful offerings not duplicated elsewhere. Faculty members and students who participate in Honors classes represent many different academic departments and colleges from across the campus. Honors courses feature an explicitly interdisciplinary component, and all courses are, by definition,

writing intensive. The courses are also discussion intensive, and students are expected to communicate orally, as well as demonstrate problem-solving skills. Many of the courses are designed to replace general education core requirements or advanced offerings. The catalog contains generic course descriptions. To see particular courses that are offered within the general rubrics listed, please see course listings at the Honors College website: <http://www.txstate.edu/honors>. Recent course offerings include *Graphic Novel: Form and Practice*, *New and Old World Philosophy*, *The Voices of Eros in Poetry*, *Elementary Number Theory*, *Baseball and the American Experience*, *Nature and the Quest for Meaning*, *Humanity and the Natural Environment: A Study of Interrelationships*, *Disturbing the Peace: Politics of Language & Power in Hip-Hop Culture*, *C.S. Lewis: Chronicles of a Master Communicator*, *Astronomy in Art*, *History and Literature*, and *From Court to Street: 18th Century France*, a course taught entirely in Paris.

- 1390 History of Ideas I. (3-0) A course centering on selected aspects of culture, how these aspects contribute to people's understanding of themselves and their universe, and the relevance of these aspects to contemporary society. (WI)
- 2380 Contemporary Issues in Natural Science (3-0) A course that addresses current issues in the natural sciences, particularly those which have particular significance for today. (WI)
- 2390 History of Ideas II. (3-0) A course that explores the quest for an ideal society and the ideologies that quest has produced. (WI)
- 2391 History of Ideas III (3-0) A course that focuses upon intellectual and cultural developments in western history, which have particular significance for contemporary society. (WI)
- 3390 The Nature of Society (3-0) A course that probes some of the antecedents of modern society as reflected in the philosophy, art, science, and religions of the medieval and early modern era of Western Europe. (WI)
- 3391 The Nature of Modernity (3-0) A course which explores some of the philosophical and ethical problems in the realms of modern science, technology, urbanism, and social and cultural change. (WI)
- 3392 The Nature of the Human Experience I. (3-0) A course that explores some of the historical, philosophical, and cultural aspects of our relationship to each other and to our world. (WI)
- 3393 The Nature of the Human Experience II. (3-0) A course that focuses on some of the cultural, historical, technological, philosophical and ideological aspects of the modern world. (WI)
- 3394 The Nature of the Human Experience III. (3-0) A course that focuses on some of the cultural and philosophical developments in history, which have particular significance for contemporary society. (WI)
- 3395 The Nature of the Human Experience IV. (3-0) A course that focuses on some of the intellectual and cultural developments in the arts and sciences, which have particular significance for understanding today's world. Repeatable for credit with different emphasis. (WI)
- 3396 The Nature of the Human Experience V. (3-0) A course which addresses the economic, social, and cultural aspects of the modern world and the relationship to history. (WI)
- 3397 The Nature of the Human Experience VI. (3-0) A course which addresses the economic, social, and cultural developments in the modern world and the relationship to history. (WI).

- 3480 Contemporary Issues in Natural Sciences. (3-2) The course addresses current issues in the natural sciences, particularly those which have significance for today. This course includes a laboratory or fieldwork component. (WI)
- 4390A Senior Seminar: Thesis Development. (3-0) A course that provides the opportunity to focus on research and learn research techniques appropriate for an honors thesis. This course provides the foundation to develop a realistic project, find a supportive thesis supervisor, build a bibliography and outline, and complete the review of literature. (WI)
- 4390B Honors Thesis. (3-0) A course in which students pursue an independent project of research, study, or creative achievement that culminates in a paper, laboratory or field research problem, or creative project (play, book of poetry, artwork, etc.) of significant size and scope. Prerequisite: Students must meet with the Dean of the Honors College for approval. (WI)
- 4391 Honors Independent Study. (3-0) Individual study under direct supervision of a professor for Honors credit. May involve field trips. This course may be repeated for credit but a student may not exceed six hours of credit in Honors Independent Study. (WI)

#### HONORS CONTRACT COURSE

Designated with "Honors work included" on students' transcript upon completion, any regular Texas State course above the 2000 level can become an Honors Contract course with the concurrent approval of the student, faculty instructor, and Honors College. Students completing an Honors Contract course complete at least 15% work in addition to the requirements set forth in the course and must earn a 'B' or better in the course. (WI)

#### DEPARTMENTAL HONORS COURSE

Offered in a growing number of departments, the Departmental Honors Course will follow the set curriculum with additional depth in subject matter and will encourage more student independent research. Possible course modifications include independent projects, group projects, papers, fewer multiple-choice exams, and class size limited to 17 students. See course listings at <http://www.txstate.edu/honors/prospective/courses.html>.

#### MINOR IN HONORS STUDIES

A minor in Honors Studies requires 21 semester hours, of which 12 hours are advanced including HON 4390A and HON 4390B. Of the advanced courses, a maximum of 2 may be Honors Contract courses. Honors Contract courses may not be counted for both the minor and the major. A maximum of 3 Honors courses may be counted to satisfy both General Education Core Curriculum requirements and the minor. Students are required to demonstrate cross-cultural experience by completing a study abroad program or an alternative cross-cultural component. Students must complete an Honors Thesis by enrolling in HON 4390B. Students are required to make a presentation of the thesis in the Honors Thesis Forum and obtain approval by the thesis supervising professor and the Dean of the Honors College.