



BERRY COLLEGE
HONORS PROGRAM

Student Guide 2024-25:
*How to ~~Survive~~ **Thrive***
in the Honors Program at
Berry College



Green Hall 325
Berry College
Mount Berry, GA 30149
<http://www.berry.edu/honors>

Welcome

Welcome to Berry's Honors Program and the Honors Student Union, one of the largest student organizations on campus. As students with exemplary records of academic achievement, leadership and service, your admission to the Honors Program will give you the opportunity to take your talents even further during your time at Berry College, with resources and programs available exclusively to you through the Honors Program. These benefits are a two-way street, however. As members of the Honors Program, you are role models for the Berry community, demonstrating what is possible to achieve as you engage in Berry's education of the Head, the Heart and the Hands. It is never too early to begin thinking about ways in which you can participate in the process of making the Honors Program, and Berry College, better than you found it. This guide is designed to help orient you to the Honors Program and to encourage you to plan ahead for your time at Berry, which we assure you will fly by all too quickly. Please feel free to stop by Dr. Fannin's office (Green 325) with any questions, concerns or ideas. We look forward to getting to know each one of you and supporting you during your time at Berry College. Again, welcome!

Dr. Coleman Fannin, Director

706.368.6791 | cfannin@berry.edu | Green Hall 325

Ms. Leah Sherwin, Secretary

678-246-8705 | lsherwin@berry.edu | Laughlin ... 101 Laughlin

Honors Program Office

706-368-5659 | honors@berry.edu | 325 Green Hall

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This guide has been developed for you by fellow Honors students to help you make the most of your experience in the Honors Program at Berry College. Here, you will find basic information about the program as well as a preview of what you can expect as an Honors student. In addition, we have tried to answer some of the questions that you might have about various topics, such as signing up for classes and completing the Honors Thesis. It is our hope that you will find this guide useful and informative, and that it will be helpful to you as you begin your experience as an Honors student. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. The Honors Program office is on the third floor of Green Hall next to the elevator, in Green 325.

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Program Overview

If you have big dreams, a longing for creative expression, and the desire to take on career-shaping challenges, this is the program for you. The Honors Program brings Berry's best students and faculty together to ask the "big questions" that have engaged humanity through the ages and that are of pressing importance to the future. The essence of the Honors approach to education is personal attention, top faculty, enlightening seminars, illuminating international experiences, research endeavors, leadership development and service to the community. These activities should enhance a classic education and prepare you for a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and new experiences. We want to help you learn to think and write clearly; to be excited by ideas; to become an independent, creative and self-confident learner; and to develop in the areas of leadership and service.

The Honors Program provides students with an opportunity to challenge themselves both inside and outside of the classroom and to explore a variety of topics at a depth beyond that usually covered in regular coursework. In addition, being an Honors student at Berry College affords other privileges, including:

- Special study abroad and scholarship opportunities
- Early course pre-registration
- Financial support to present papers or posters at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference and at regional Honors conferences
- Access to the Honors lounge areas, available only to Honors students for social and educational activities, and for study.
- The opportunity to design, with the help of a team of faculty members, a year-long research project that will not only prepare you for graduate school or your future career, but also give you the critical thinking and analysis skills most sought by employers today.

In addition, Honors students graduate from Berry with a special degree that indicates their heightened initiative and engagement in scholarly pursuits to potential employers or graduate/professional schools.

In the end, we believe that whatever extra effort is required, it is worth the good of gaining knowledge, of shedding ignorance and prejudice, of finding aesthetic pleasure and of experiencing the joy of discovering new insights, in the company of equally talented seekers with similar goals.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Honors Curriculum

Will I have to take extra classes?

No. With proper planning, the classes that you take for Honors credit will count either toward the Foundations Curriculum requirements or as requirements for your major, either naturally or via honorization (see pages 7-8). Depending on your major, the thesis courses may be "extra" but still fall within the 124 hours required for graduation.

Do I have to do extra work?

It depends on what you mean by "extra." Courses with an Honors designation are, by their nature, more challenging than regular courses, but they do not necessarily require more work in the form of more tests or more projects. Instead, they require more engagement and more responsibility for independent learning. However, if you choose to "honorize" a regular course within your major, you may be expected to meet requirements beyond regular coursework in order to receive Honors credit. This should be discussed with the instructor of record for the course BEFORE classes begin.

How do I sign up for Honors classes?

During pre-registration, consult the list of Honors courses on the Honors website to see what options are available. You will also want to consult with your academic advisor to make sure that your choices are helping you make timely progress toward graduation. You may also feel free to consult with the Honors Director, who is a supplementary advisor for all honors students (and therefore can see your degree progress and give advice tailored to your particular situation), about your course choices. Make sure to include study abroad, if at all possible, in your plans.

Do I have to complete a thesis to graduate with the Honors degree?

The short answer is yes. All Honors graduates have completed a two-semester sequence of thesis courses, HON 450 and HON 451. You should begin thinking about potential thesis projects in the summer/fall of your junior year, work on building a faculty team or committee to support your research in the fall of your junior year and embark on HON 450 in your junior spring. You will also be required to take a 1 credit hour course (HON 300) in the fall of your junior year that is specifically designed to help you in this process. Some students choose to begin their thesis in the fall of their senior year; that will be up to you and your thesis committee. More detailed information about the thesis is available on the Honors website and VikingWeb page.

What opportunities will I have to present my research?



The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), the professional association of undergraduate Honors programs and colleges, organizes a national conference each October or November in part to showcase research. Unlike most conferences of its kind, the NCHC conference emphasizes undergraduate students on its programs and as elected members of its governing board.

All NCHC members are involved in the association's ongoing projects. Through Berry's institutional membership in NCHC, you, too, are a member, fully eligible to participate and to present at the conference. Scholarships and grants are available to help support travel to this conference, or any other academic conference at which you are presenting research.

Berry also has an annual showcase of student scholarship, near the end of the spring semester. This is an ideal time to showcase your thesis project, but Honors students often present papers or posters beginning as early as freshman year, building on projects they completed in their courses or research they have undertaken with Berry professors.

Academic Program

The Honors Degree is open to students in all academic programs and majors who have met the requirements for admission. It may help to think of the Honors Degree as the equivalent of an academic Minor that you earn in addition to completing all other degree requirements.

In order to earn your Honors Degree, you must complete 22 hours of Honors coursework and **have a 3.3 cumulative grade point average in all college coursework** at the time of graduation. You will graduate with a special degree if you fulfill these requirements — a BAH (Bachelor of Arts Honors), BMH (Bachelor of Music Honors), BSNH (Bachelor of Nursing Honors) or BSH (Bachelor of Science Honors).

Note: You do NOT have to be enrolled in an Honors class or achieve a 3.3 GPA each semester in order to remain eligible for the Honors Degree.

Honors coursework is divided into three areas: Honors core, Honors electives and the Honors Thesis (an independent research project).

Honors Core (6 credit hours; choose any two of the following three courses):

HON 201H Perennial Questions **3 hours**
(counts toward the Humanities Foundations Curriculum requirement)

HON 203H Institutions, Society & the Self **3 hours**
(counts toward the Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundations Curriculum requirement)

HON 205H Scientific Approaches to Contemporary Challenges **4 hours**
(counts toward the Natural Sciences Foundations Curriculum requirement)

Honors Electives (minimum of 9 credit hours; choose any three options listed below):

A third Honors core course not already taken **3 or 4 hours**

Univ. of Glasgow's Scottish Enlightenment course **3 hours**

Any HON 250 course **3 hours**

Any designated Honors Foundations Curriculum course **3 or 4 hours**

Any "honored" course (see page 8) **3 or 4 hours**

Honors electives come in four forms: “pure” HON 250, cross-listed “hybrid” courses with discipline-specific prefixes, “pure Honors” Foundations Curriculum courses in other disciplines, and “honored” courses (see below).

An example of the hybrid HON 250 is the History of Rock and Roll, HIS 460, which has a limited number of seats cross-listed as HON 250. A “pure” Honors Foundations Curriculum course is open only to Honors students; RHW 102 H N (Honors: First-Year Seminar in Rhetoric and Writing) is an example of this type of course – the *section* of the course is Honors-only, but there may be other non-Honors sections of the same course offered in the same semester, or in other semesters.

Each semester during pre-registration, the Honors website will clearly designate which courses will count as Honors electives.

Honored Courses

It is possible to “honorize” a course that is not otherwise designated an honors course, should the need arise. To honorize a course, a student should contact the course’s instructor during the pre-registration period in order to request the designation, as well as to determine the coursework to be completed for Honors credit. Next, complete the honorization contract (available on the Honors VikingWeb page), making sure to obtain the required signatures listed on the form. Please note that courses cannot be honorized *after* the first week of classes, and that, once honorized, a course cannot revert back to a regular course.

Honors Thesis courses (6 credit hours):

HON 300 Honors Transitions	1 hour
HON 450 Honors Thesis I	2 hours
HON 451 Honors Thesis II	3 hours

To help you reflect on the ideas that you have encountered in your Honors core and elective courses and then transition toward a successful thesis, the Honors faculty created a 1 credit hour course, HON 300: Honors Transitions. In this course, you will tie together some of the “big ideas” you’ve wrestled with in your honors coursework thus far and discuss what aspects of these courses might be applicable as you look toward your thesis. The course will also discuss important issues to Honors students at this stage, including how to select a thesis advisor or general area of interest for your thesis work, how to work with that advisor to develop your thesis topic and general plan of action and how to successfully avoid procrastination to complete your thesis project on time and with minimal stress. You should sign up for HON 300 in the fall of your junior year.

The Honors thesis takes the form of a two-term directed study project: HON 450 and HON 451. The thesis project often focuses on a topic within your major and can take the

form of a traditional research thesis or a creative work with a reflective component. Many majors require some form of final project, which means that the Honors thesis typically fulfills the major requirement as well, though this must be approved by that major's academic department and by the dean of the school concerned.

You should sign up for HON 450 in the spring of your junior year or the fall of your senior year. Begin by choosing an Honors thesis director, typically in your field of study. This should be a full-time faculty member with whom you have discussed your program of research. You will also need a second thesis committee member, a member of the faculty from any field or discipline. Together, you and your committee will develop a syllabus (or a plan for what will be completed each semester, with deadlines). Next, complete the HON 450 registration form available on the Honors website and submit it to the director for approval. You must have both the signed registration and a syllabus in order for the Registrar to add the course to your schedule.

HON 450 is a pass/fail course. The purpose of HON 450 is for you to define and begin work on the specific focus of your Honors thesis, although in some cases, this work will begin in the summer, or in the semester before you register for HON 450. At the end of HON 450, you will submit a formal research or project proposal to your thesis committee and to the director of the Honors Program. The content of the formal proposal may include:

- an annotated bibliography
- an annotated outline of the project
- a rationale for and synopsis of the project
- a rough draft of some elements of the project and/or proposal
- a summary of empirical data and analysis completed
- any other elements suggested by your thesis director

This proposal must be judged "Satisfactory" before the student may enroll in the second course, HON 451, during which the student completes the research project as outlined in the proposal.

More information about HON 450/451 is available on the Honors VikingWeb page.

The Honors Program at University of Glasgow



The Honors Program has partnered with the University of Glasgow, Scotland, to create a special study abroad program open only to Honors students. Made possible by the Principia Consortium, which was founded by Berry, this program offers unique course and research opportunities to students from Berry's Honors Program and other select Honors Programs at colleges and universities in the United States.

The University of Glasgow is an internationally recognized institution with prestigious programs in the sciences and humanities. Glasgow offers a special Honors course for Berry students focusing on Scottish Enlightenment, and the university has designed courses to meet the specific needs of our science, pre-med, and pre-vet students, including Practical Anatomy courses not available to most undergraduates in the United States. Membership in Principia also allows Berry Honors students access to level 3 and level 4 courses in all disciplines not ordinarily available to international students.

You are encouraged to discuss this program with fellow Honors students and the director. For more information on this program, visit:

- <http://www.berry.edu/academics/honors/glasgow>
- <http://www.gla.ac.uk/subjects/scottishliterature/undergraduate/principia/>

Honors Program Policies

Maintaining Good Standing in Honors

- An Honors student whose career GPA is between 3.0 and 3.3 after semester grades are reported will receive a grade alert from the Director.
- An Honors student whose career GPA is below a 3.0 after semester grades are reported will receive a formal warning from the Director; that student will be on probation and will need special approval from the Honors director to register for HON 450/451 or to apply to study abroad at University of Glasgow.
- An Honors student on probation who brings their career GPA back up to a 3.0 or higher will be reinstated in good standing.
- An Honors student whose career GPA is below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters will be removed from the Honors Program and will be removed from the roster of any Honors courses for which they have pre-registered.
- **When it becomes clear that it is mathematically impossible for a student to graduate with a 3.3 overall GPA, that student will be removed from the Honors Program.**

Admission to the Honors Program

Most Honors Students will be admitted via application by invitation before they matriculate at Berry. However, there is a means by which first-year students may enter the Honors Program:

- At the end of every fall semester, after grades have been submitted, the Director of the Honors Program will request from the Registrar a list of all first-year students who have achieved a certain GPA, typically at least 3.5.
- These students will be invited to apply for admission to the Honors Program, typically by the end of December. The Honors Program Committee will read applications and select admitted students in early January.

Honors Student Union

As an Honors student, you are invited to participate in the Honors Student Union, an officially recognized student organization responsible for sponsoring programs for the benefit of Honors students and the campus as a whole. The Honors student officers work to provide new opportunities for students to get involved with HSU, and they welcome any questions, comments or suggestions you may have.

Depending on the year, nominations and a selection process may be held for leadership positions early in the fall, giving new Honors students the opportunity to serve.

You will have many opportunities to get involved with service activities through the Honors Program. The Honors Student Union will sponsor one-time service projects throughout the year, so be on the lookout for announcements regarding those events.