

## THE PATRICK LEAHY HONORS COLLEGE

<http://www.uvm.edu/honorscollege>

The Patrick Leahy Honors College (PLHC) offers an academically challenging environment for some of the University's most outstanding undergraduate students. It involves a broad cross section of the university, representing every undergraduate college and a wide range of academic disciplines through robust coursework, research, and societal engagement. The PLHC is above all a community of students, faculty, and staff committed to the ideals of excellence in scholarship and intellectual inquiry.

### ADMISSION TO THE PATRICK LEAHY HONORS COLLEGE

Admission to the PLHC is based on prior academic performance and is gained through one of two avenues. First-year students may be invited to the PLHC based on the strength of their application to the university; no additional application is required. Because the college exists to recognize and encourage academic excellence, it also welcomes applications for admission from sophomores who were not in the PLHC in their first year. Sophomore admission requires an application form, a 3.40 (or higher) grade-point average at the time of application, and a response to an essay question. Admission is determined on a space-available basis. Students transferring into UVM should contact the Patrick Leahy Honors College office to express their interest.

### CURRICULUM

Patrick Leahy Honors College students have "dual citizenship" at the University: they are members of both the PLHC and one of the seven undergraduate degree-granting schools and colleges. The PLHC curriculum supplements and enriches the University's degree offerings with seminars that broaden intellectual horizons, stimulate reflection & discussion, and inspire scholarly inquiry. PLHC courses are taught by distinguished members of the UVM faculty with expertise in a wide range of academic disciplines. These courses frequently fulfill degree and Catamount Core Curriculum requirements. Enrollment is limited to PLHC students. Students who complete all Patrick Leahy Honors College academic requirements, in addition to the degree requirements of the home school/college, graduate as Patrick Leahy Honors College Scholars.

#### First-Year Seminars

First-year PLHC students take a series of two-courses, one in the fall (HCOL 1000) and one in the spring (HCOL 1500). Seminars during the fall semester engage with a wide variety of contemporary social and ecological challenges, while sharing a common focus on writing and information literacy. The spring semester seminars build on skills and knowledge formed in the fall by introducing students to collaborative group work and public speaking.

#### Sophomore Seminars

Students take one three-credit seminar (HCOL 2000) during each semester of Sophomore year, totaling six credits. Courses are primarily focused on providing students experience with research. Course themes vary from year to year.

#### Junior and Senior Year

In the Junior year, students enroll in thesis preparatory coursework through their home school/college or the Patrick Leahy Honors College. During the senior year, students complete a six-credit research thesis or senior project approved by the home school/college. The senior-year requirements vary across the schools and colleges.

#### Civic Engagement Minor

In partnership with UVM's Department of Political Science, the Patrick Leahy Honors College offers a minor in Civic Engagement. While this minor is not a requirement for completing the PLHC curriculum, students will find that many of the courses offered in the Honors College count toward it. The minor in Civic Engagement empowers students with the knowledge, skills, and practice to contribute toward solving important civic problems as responsible citizens and professionals. Courses for the minor address six key themes: contemporary challenges; ethical deliberation; civil discourse in a pluralistic society; implementing social change; theory, policy, and governance; and engaged art, science, and design. Toward this end, the minor is broadly interdisciplinary. It draws on the humanities, social sciences, and STEM disciplines. Students completing the minor will be able to think ethically about personal and social responsibility, engage with diverse perspectives in evaluating and promoting the common good, critically analyze social contexts and catalyze change, and apply their field of academic specialization to issues of public concern.

#### Accelerated Entry into Master's Degree Pathway

Patrick Leahy Honors College students who would like to work toward a master's degree as an undergraduate have the option of meeting their six-credit thesis requirement—typically completed in the senior year—with six credits of master's thesis work through one of the Accelerated Master's Pathways (AMP) at UVM. In the 2025-26 academic year, twenty-seven master's programs are eligible for this option: Animal Biosciences, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomechanical Engineering, Biostatistics, Chemistry, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Community Development & Applied Economics, Complex Systems & Data Science, Computer Science, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, Electrical Engineering, English, Food Systems, Greek & Latin, History, Historic Preservation, Interdisciplinary Studies, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Natural Resources, Nutrition & Food Science, Pharmacology, Physics, Psychology, and Statistics. Students who have completed all undergraduate degree requirements except for their six credits of thesis work, and who have formally accepted an admission offer to an AMP, may walk in the PLHC recognition ceremony. The Patrick

Leahy Honors College will award these students the undergraduate Patrick Leahy Honors College Scholar distinction upon completion of their master's thesis.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

A cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.40 (or higher) is required to remain in good academic standing in the Patrick Leahy Honors College. A student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.40 (or higher) to graduate as a Patrick Leahy Honors College Scholar.

### Academic Standing Review

At the end of each semester, the Patrick Leahy Honors College Dean's Office reviews academic records of PLHC students to identify those eligible for enhanced academic advising or dismissal. Students under consideration receive notification of their academic standing in the Patrick Leahy Honors College after the close of each fall and spring semester. Those who are notified of dismissal have the opportunity to appeal the decision.

### Criteria for Enhanced Advising

Patrick Leahy Honors College students with a cumulative GPA below 3.40 will be given one semester of enhanced academic advising to raise their GPA to a 3.40 (or higher). The PLHC will also place students with a grade of Incomplete on enhanced advising for the following semester. Enhanced advising in the Honors College consists of regular meetings with Honors College advising staff, as well as work with other academic support programs determined to be an important part of student success. Following the semester of enhanced advising, student academic records will be re-reviewed. Students who raise their cumulative GPA to a 3.40 (or higher) will be removed from enhanced advising. Those who do not earn a GPA of 3.40 (or higher) may be subject to dismissal from the Patrick Leahy Honors College.

### Criteria for Honors College Dismissal

Students who do not earn a cumulative GPA of 3.40 (or higher) after a semester of enhanced advising are eligible for dismissal. In addition, the following situations may warrant dismissal from the Patrick Leahy Honors College:

- Receipt of grades of C- (or below) in nine credits (or more) of coursework
- Offenses committed against the academic integrity code, as determined by standard university procedures
- Lack of satisfactory progress toward the completion of Patrick Leahy Honors College requirements

Academic Standing Review involves taking personal or academic considerations into account prior to dismissal for any of the situations listed above. The Patrick Leahy Honors College takes information gleaned from Enhanced Advising into consideration prior to final decision.

Students dismissed from the Patrick Leahy Honors College have the opportunity to appeal the decision in writing (unless otherwise

stated), and will receive information on the appeal process in the dismissal notification. After the review of an appeal, the student will receive notification of the decision via UVM email.

Once dismissed from the Patrick Leahy Honors College, students will be dis-enrolled from any Patrick Leahy Honors College courses. There is no possible re-entry for students who are dismissed from the Patrick Leahy Honors College.

## RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT

Patrick Leahy Honors College students live together in the residential complex, University Heights, during their first two years at UVM. In the PLHC community, students learn together in their courses, grow together through advising & peer mentoring, and participate in programming that encourages an academic work-life balance in college. All PLHC students have access to the University Heights Complex, which includes classroom space, study & lounge areas, administrative staff, advising resources, and the Fellowships, Opportunities and Undergraduate Research office (FOUR).

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All UVM faculty, students, and the general public are invited to participate in Patrick Leahy Honors College events such as lectures and symposia presented by faculty, students, and distinguished visiting scholars and artists. In addition to public forums, Patrick Leahy Honors College students are encouraged to develop their capacities in the five supporting pillars of the College: leadership, service, research, cultural engagement, and wellbeing. The PLHC enables students to explore their interests in these areas through co-curricular programming and supports their growth and development throughout their time as undergraduates.

## FELLOWSHIP AND UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Patrick Leahy Honors College provides special advising for all undergraduates at UVM, not just those in the College. The Fellowships, Opportunities, and Undergraduate Research (FOUR) office advises students interested in working with faculty outside the classroom by providing advising and financial support to pursue and present research, develop scholarly experiences, and advance their academic goals. As a student's interest grows, FOUR helps develop the next steps: this can include specialized internships, research or teaching abroad, or preparing for and funding a graduate education. FOUR also provides individualized mentoring for students applying for nationally competitive fellowships and scholarships (e.g., Fulbright, Truman, Udall, Goldwater, and Rhodes), which includes eligibility and application support, and interview preparation.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Requirement Description		Credits
<b>First Year Requirements - 6 Credits</b>		
HCOL 1000	FY Writing Seminar (Fulfills Catamount Core WIL1 and may count toward specific degree requirement in home college/school.)	3
HCOL 1500	FY Research Presentation Sem	3
<b>Sophomore Year Requirements - 6 Credits</b>		
Choose 1 of the following 3-credit courses each semester:		
HCOL 2000	Sophomore Seminar	
HCOL 2100	Contemporary Challenges	
HCOL 2120	Ethical Deliberation	
HCOL 2130	Civil Discourse	
HCOL 2140	Social Change	
HCOL 2150	Theory, Policy, & Governance	
HCOL 2160	Engaged Art, Science, & Design	
<b>Junior Year Requirements by College</b>		
<b>PLHC Students in CALS - 3 Credits</b>		
CALS 2990	Special Topics (2 credits)	
and 1 additional credit in ALE 2995, ALE 3995, ASCI 2995, ASCI 3995, BIOC 2995, BIOC 3995, CDAE 2993, CDAE 2995, CDAE 3500, CDAE 3991, CDAE 3993, CDAE 3995, ENSC 2995, ENSC 3995, ENSC 3996, ENV5 3995, MMG 2995, MMG 3995, NFS 2995, NFS 3995, PBIO 2995, PBIO 3995		
<b>PLHC Students in CAS - 4 to 5 Credits</b>		
HCOL 3000	Thesis Proposal Preparation (1 credit)	
and 1 additional credit in HCOL 3881 (a binding agreement with a faculty member for enriched course work in one 2000+-level 3-credit course taught by that faculty member), or 3 credits in HCOL 3882, or 3 credits in HCOL 3883		
<b>PLHC Students in CESS - 4 Credits</b>		
EDFS 3090	Intro to Research Methods (3 credits)	
EDFS 2995	Undergraduate Research (1 credit)	
<b>PLHC Students in CEMS - 2 Credits</b>		
CEMS 2010	HCOL Research Experience (1 credit)	
CEMS 2020	Research Thesis Proposal (1 credit)	
<b>PLHC Students in CNHS - 6 Credits</b>		
NH 2996	Honors College Thesis Preparat (3 credits)	
NH 3996	HC: Honors Project and Seminar (3 credits)	

<b>PLHC Students in GSB - 3 Credits</b>		
BUS 2996	Honors Rsch Methods Seminar (3 credits)	
<b>PLHC in RSENR - 4 Credits</b>		
NR 2996	Honors Seminar (1 credit)	
NR 3010	Research Methods (3 credits)	
<b>Senior Year Requirements by College</b>		
<b>PLHC Students in CALS - 6 Credits</b>		
6 credits in ALE 2995, ALE 3995, ASCI 2995, ASCI 3995, ASCI 3990, BIOC 2995, BIOC 3995, CDAE 2993, CDAE 3500, CDAE 3993, CDAE 3991, CDAE 2995, CDAE 3995, ENSC 2995, ENSC 3995, ENSC 3996, ENV5 4500, MMG 2995, MMG 3995, NFS 2995, NFS 3995, PBIO 2995, PBIO 3995		
<b>PLHC Students in CAS - 6 Credits</b>		
HCOL 4000	Thesis Support Seminar (0 credits)	
and 6 credits in ANTH 4996, ARTH 4996, ARTS 4996, BIOC 4996, BIOL 4996, CAS 4996, CHEM 4996, CHIN 4996, CLAS 4996, CS 4996, DNCE 4996, ECON 4996, ENGL 4996, ENV5 4996, FTS 4996, FREN 4996, GSW5 4996, GEOG 4996, GEOL 4996, GERM 4996, GRK 4996, GRS 4996, HSOC 4996, HST 4996, ITAL 4996, JAPN 4996, LAT 4996, LING 4996, MATH 4996, MU 4996, NSCI 4996, PHIL 4996, PHYS 4996, PBIO 4996, POLS 4996, PSYS 4996, REL 4996, RUSS 4996, SOC 4996, SPAN 4996, THE 4996		
<b>PLHC Students in CESS - 6 Credits</b>		
EDFS 3995	Undergraduate Research (6 credits)	
<b>PLHC Students in CEMS - 6 credits</b>		
6 credits in BME 2996, CEE 2996, CS 4996, EE 2996, MATH 4996, ME 2996, PHYS 4996, STAT 3996		
or 3 credits in BME 2991, BME 2995, BME 3995, CEE 2991, CEE 2995, CEE 3995, CEMS 2991, CS 2991, CS 2995, CS 3995, EE 2995, EE 3995, MATH 2991, MATH 2995, MATH 3995, ME 2991, ME 2995, ME 3995, PHYS 2995, PHYS 3995, PHYS 4995, STAT 2991, STAT 2995, STAT 3995		
and 3 credits in BME 2996, CEE 2996, CS 4996, EE 2996, MATH 4996, ME 2996, PHYS 4996, STAT 3996		
<b>PLHC Students in CNHS - 3 Credits</b>		
NH 3996	HC: Honors Project and Seminar (3 credits)	
<b>PLHC Students in GSB - 6 Credits</b>		
BUS 4996	Business Admin Honors Thesis (6 credits)	
<b>PLHC Students in RSENR - 6 Credits</b>		
6 credits in ENSC 3996, ENV5 4996, FOR 3996, NR 3996, PRT 3996, WFB 3996		