

## THE HONORS COLLEGE

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

The Honors College (HCOL) offers an intensely focused, 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 the wide range of academic disciplines through robust coursework, research, and scholarly and societal engagement. The Honors College is above all a community of students, faculty, and staff committed to the ideals of excellence in scholarship, academic rigor, and intellectual inquiry and engagement.

### ADMISSION TO THE HONORS COLLEGE

Admission to the Honors College is based on prior academic performance and is gained through one of two avenues. First-year students may be invited to the HCOL based on the strength of their application to the university; no additional application is required. Approximately 260 first-year students comprise each year's class. Because the college exists to recognize and encourage academic excellence, it also welcomes applications for admission from sophomores who were not in the HCOL in their first year, but were among the top performers as first-year students at UVM. Sophomore admission requires an application form, a 3.40 grade-point average at the end of the first year, a letter of recommendation from a UVM faculty member, and a brief essay. Up to 100 sophomores are admitted annually. Students transferring into UVM should contact the Honors College office to express their interest.

### CURRICULUM

Honors College students have "dual citizenship": they are members of both the HCOL and one of the seven undergraduate degree granting schools and colleges. The Honors College supplements and enriches degree offerings with seminars that broaden intellectual horizons and stimulate discussion, debate, writing, research and reflection. Honors College courses are taught by distinguished faculty drawn from the range of academic disciplines at UVM. Enrollment in seminars for first-year and sophomore students is limited to Honors College students. Honors College courses often count towards fulfilling degree requirements. Students who complete all Honors College curricular requirements, in addition to the degree requirements of their home school or college, graduate as Honors College Scholars.

#### The First-Year Seminars

First-year Honors College students take a two-course sequence, HCOL 085 (taught in the fall) and HCOL 086 (taught in the spring).

Seminars during the fall semester engage with a variety of topics but all share a common focus on writing and information literacy. In the spring semester, a follow-up to the fall class similarly offers a choice of seminars that build on the skills and knowledge developed during the previous semester. They additionally introduce students to collaborative group work and public speaking. Most spring seminars

are on the themes of diversity or sustainability, allowing students to progress toward completing the university's diversity requirements.

#### Sophomore Seminars

Sophomores take two three-credit seminars, one in the fall and one in the spring, selected from an extensive slate of offerings created for Honors College students by faculty in schools and colleges university-wide. Topics vary from year to year.

#### Junior and Senior Year

Typically, in the junior year, students take a minimum of three credits of course work in their home school or college that prepares them for their senior year Honors thesis project. Senior students complete a six-credit research thesis or senior project approved by their home school or college. Requirements for both years vary across the schools and colleges.

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS

A cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.20 is required for first year and sophomore students to remain in good standing in the Honors College. Beyond the sophomore year, a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.40 is required for all Honors College students at the time of thesis proposal in their home college. The student must maintain a GPA of 3.40 or higher to graduate as an Honors College Scholar.

#### Process for Grade Review

At the end of each semester the Honors College Dean (in consultation with the college's Academic Standards Committee) reviews academic records of Honors College students eligible for academic probation or dismissal. In that meeting the Dean makes a decision for each student under consideration for academic trial or dismissal. Students under consideration for trial or dismissal receive notification of their academic standing in the Honors College within 10 business days of the posting of final semester grades. Students who are notified of dismissal have the opportunity to appeal the decision.

Questions about good standing, academic trial, or dismissal can be directed to the Honors College at 802-656-9100 or [honors.college@uvm.edu](mailto:honors.college@uvm.edu).

#### Criteria for Academic Trial

First-year and sophomore students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.20 will be given one semester of academic trial to raise their GPA to at least a 3.20. Academic trial in the Honors College consists of regular meetings with Honors College academic advising staff, as well as work with other academic support programs determined to be an important part of student success. After one semester of academic probation student academic records will be reviewed again by the Honors College Dean and Academic Standards Committee. Students who raise their GPA above a 3.20 will be removed from probation. Students who fail to bring their GPA above a 3.20 will be subject to dismissal from the Honors College. The Dean may take personal

or academic considerations into account prior to dismissal for any student on trial.

**Criteria for Honors College Dismissal**

Students who are not successful in bringing their cumulative GPA above the 3.20 level after a semester of academic trial are eligible for dismissal. In addition, the following situations may warrant a student dismissal from the Honors College:

- Lack of a cumulative GPA of 3.40 at the time a student submits their thesis proposal. Students must then maintain a GPA of 3.40 or higher to graduate as an Honors College Scholar.
- Receipt of grades of C- or below for more than eight credits of coursework.
- Offenses committed against the academic integrity code, as determined by standard university procedures.
- A failing grade in an Honors College seminar.
- Lack of satisfactory progress toward the completion of Honors College requirements are subject to dismissal from the Honors College.

The Dean may take personal or academic considerations into account prior to dismissal for any of the situations listed above. Such considerations are on a case-by-case basis.

Students who are dismissed have the opportunity to appeal the decision in writing, and they receive information on the appeal process in their dismissal notification. To appeal, students must e-mail their appeal to the Honors College Dean within five business days of receiving their notification of dismissal. The Dean (in consultation with the Academic Standards Committee) will review all appeals within five business days of receiving the appeal. Students will then hear of their final Honors College status from the Honors College Dean.

Once dismissed from the Honors College, students will be disenrolled from any Honors College courses no later than the end of the first week of classes. There is no possible re-entry for students who are dismissed (post-appeal) from the Honors College.

Contact the Honors College at 802-656-9100 or [honors.college@uvm.edu](mailto:honors.college@uvm.edu) for additional information.

**RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT**

The Honors College is housed in a residential complex at University Heights. This beautiful facility provides housing for HC students, as well as permanent office space for the HC administration and staff. In addition, the complex includes classroom space, lounges, and meeting spaces for the Honors College. Students are strongly encouraged to live in the Honors College residence.

**CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

All UVM faculty and students and the general public are invited to participate in frequent Honors College events such as lectures and

symposia presented by faculty, students, and distinguished visiting scholars and artists.

**FELLOWSHIP AND UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT**

The Honors College provides special advising for students throughout UVM, not just the Honors College, in two areas. The FOUR (Fellowships, Opportunities, and Undergraduate Research) Office advises undergraduates interested in pursuing research under the mentorship of a faculty member by maintaining a database of research opportunities and administering funding programs. FOUR also provides mentoring for students applying for nationally competitive fellowships and scholarships (e.g., Fulbright, Truman, Udall, Goldwater, and Rhodes).

**PLAN OF STUDY**

First Year	Credits	
	Fall	Spring
HCOL 085 FW:Honors Coll First Year Sem (Fulfills University FY Writing Requirement and may count toward specific degree requirements in home college/school)	3	
HCOL 086 Honors College First Year Sem (may count toward specific degree requirements in home college/school)		3
Year Total:	3	3
<b>Sophomore</b>		
	Fall	Spring
HCOL 185 Honors College Sophomore Sem (may count toward specific degree requirements in home college/school)	3	
HCOL 186 Honors College Sophomore Sem (may count toward specific degree requirements in home college/school)		3
Year Total:	3	3
<b>Junior</b>		
	Fall	Spring
1-3 credits related to research and thesis preparation, offered in the home college/school (may be completed either fall or spring)	1-3	1-3
Year Total:	1-3	1-3

<b>Senior</b>	<b>Credits</b>	
	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
A total of six credits of honors thesis must be taken over two semesters. May count toward specific degree requirements.	3	3
Year Total:	3	3
<b>Total Credits in Sequence:</b>		
	<b>20-24</b>	