A guide to the practices and policies of the Honors Program for students and faculty
Mission:
The Honors Program at UT Tyler provides intellectually enriching opportunities for academically talented and motivated students at our university. The Program emphasizes small classes, enriched coursework, independent learning, speaking and writing, research within the discipline, sharing ideas, and discovering new worlds beyond the campus.

Honors students will receive personalized academic advising, honors courses with top faculty, special programming, and opportunities for research and travel. Upon completion of the program and graduation, students will receive a special Honors designation on their transcripts.

What is the Honors Program?
The University Honors Program at UT Tyler is designed to provide an intellectually rigorous and innovative program for those students who love to be challenged and stimulated by new ideas, new ways of thinking, and exciting interdisciplinary opportunities.

No matter the intended major, students in this program will find that knowledge doesn't fit easily into discrete categories, but that all questions and issues cross interdisciplinary boundaries. For example, students majoring in biology will discover how anthropology, Shakespeare, ethics, and political economics all affect the sciences.

Honors students at UT Tyler will have the opportunity to talk with outstanding leaders, scholars, and lawmakers and ask challenging questions. They will also get the chance to make their own mark with their own research, writing, or creative endeavor. Opportunities may be available for international study and travel abroad.

Honors is also about connecting with the campus community, making life-long friends, being with other students who like to explore ideas, and getting that extra personal attention from staff and professors.

Honors Curriculum:
The curriculum of the UT Tyler University Honors Program is carefully shaped to ensure that classes never exceed 25 students. Instructors are regular faculty selected on the basis of their demonstrated teaching excellence. All faculty are active scholars publishing in their disciplines.

Honors is not a major. All students will complete the requirements of a departmental major—whether it's chemistry, English, political science, civil engineering, nursing, or any other major offered by the university.
**Honors Core:**

Honors students are released from meeting four specific courses required in the University's Core Curriculum. Instead, Honors students will take Honors seminars (HNRS) to replace 12 of the following 18 hours of Core Curriculum requirements: English Composition (6 hours), and/or World Literature (3 hours), Humanities (3 hours), Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 hours), and Fine and Performing Arts (3 hours). (If students already have credit for some of these courses, the Honors advisor will work with them to fit HNRS courses into the degree plan.) Qualifying students will take HNRS 2413/HNRS 2425 (Interdisciplinary Calculus & Physics I) and HNRS 2414/2426 (Interdisciplinary Calculus & Physics II.)

Students will still be required to meet the remaining hours of the Core Curriculum through the regular courses. Advanced Placement and dual credit courses may be counted on an Honors student’s degree plan in consultation with the Honors Director and the University Advising Center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year Fall</th>
<th>First Year Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNRS 1351</td>
<td>HNRS 1352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(counts for either Communication (ENGL 1301) or World/Brit Lit req. on core)</td>
<td>(counts for either Communication (ENGL 1302) or Humanities req. on core)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Second Year Fall</th>
<th>Second Year Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNRS 2351</td>
<td>HNRS 2352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(counts for Social Science req. on core)</td>
<td>(counts for Fine Arts req. on core)</td>
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**Honors Colloquium:**

“Colloquium” is Latin for dialogue or conversation. Students are required to participate in non-credit Honors Colloquia, which meet approximately four times each semester. Each Honors Colloquium is an opportunity for students to meet and talk with scholars, as well as local, regional, and national leaders about topics that relate to the semester’s courses or the life of the mind in general.

![UT Tyler Honors Students with Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias]
Past Colloquium speakers include author Steve Lopez (*The Soloist*), former Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff, and Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias. The Colloquium may also include events such as museum trips, service projects, fine arts productions, and other leadership and learning activities.

To remain members in good standing of the Honors Program, all Honors students must attend all colloquia. Any absences must receive the written approval of the Honors Program director. In most cases, Honors Colloquia are open to the public. Please feel free to bring friends. Each semester’s current schedule can be found on the website at [http://www.uttoyler.edu/honors/colloquia.php](http://www.uttoyler.edu/honors/colloquia.php)

**Contract Courses:**

Typically in the junior year, students will choose two advanced courses—3000 or 4000 level—required by their major as their contract courses. In these courses, students will complete additional work under "contract" with a faculty member. Contracts may include an additional project, additional readings, additional meetings with a faculty member, additional research time in the faculty member's lab, etc. Students will sign a contract at the beginning of the course with the faculty member (see “Honors Contract Course Agreement” at the back of this document), specifying the "contracted" work to be done, in addition to the normal requirements of the course. The Honors Program advisor will work with each student and the student’s departmental advisor to select the right courses and approve the contract. The deadline for a semester’s contract course paperwork is the third Monday after the start of classes.

**Honors Thesis:**

During the last year of an Honors student’s degree, s/he will write an Honors Thesis in the fall and spring semester. The Honors Thesis is the culmination of writing and research done in various courses—including any capstone courses—in the major. The Honors Thesis is written under the mentorship of a faculty member in the student’s discipline.

**Example  2-Year Degree Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester--First Year</th>
<th>Spring Semester--First Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNRS 1351 (3 hrs)</td>
<td>HNRS 1352 (3 hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors Colloquium</td>
<td>Honors Colloquium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNRS 2413 (4 hrs)</td>
<td>HNRS 2414 (4 hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNRS 2425 (4 hrs)</td>
<td>HNRS 2426 (4 hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 1301--Amer. Hist. I (3 hrs)</td>
<td>HIST 1302--Amer. Hist. II (3 hrs)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester--Second Year</th>
<th>Spring Semester--Second Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNRS 2351 (3 hrs)</td>
<td>HNRS 2352 (3 hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors Colloquium</td>
<td>Honors Colloquium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 2305--Amer. Gov't (3 hrs)</td>
<td>POLS 2306--Texas Gov't. (3 hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major/minor/electives (9 hrs)</td>
<td>Major/minor/electives 9 hrs</td>
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</table>
Application for in-coming first-year students:

The application for the Honors Program can be found on our web-site: http://www.uttyler.edu/honors/apply.php. We are looking for highly talented and motivated students. Typically, the Admission Committee will look at students with an ACT composite score of at least 28 or an SAT composite score of at least 1860, and a minimum 3.5 high school GPA. Each applicant is evaluated using the rubric below based on these four criteria: 1) ACT/SAT scores, 2) high school GPA, 3) written essay, and 4) face-to-face or phone interview. If any student does not meet the minimum, “Satisfactory” requirement in any of the four criteria, they will not be considered for the UT Tyler Honors Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Satisfactory”</th>
<th>“Meets Expectations”</th>
<th>“Exceeds Expectations”</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT/SAT</td>
<td>28-29 ACT 1860-1970 SAT</td>
<td>30-31 ACT 1980-2120 SAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>3.0-3.3</td>
<td>3.3-3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Answers essay questions in a thoughtful and creative manner that displays a writing ability at an appropriate college freshman level</td>
<td>Answers essay questions in a thoughtful and creative manner that displays a writing ability above the average college freshman level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>The applicant presented himself/herself in an appropriate manner displaying an adequate level of enthusiasm for becoming a member of the UT Tyler Honors Program</td>
<td>The applicant presented himself/herself in an appropriate manner displaying an above average level of interest and enthusiasm for becoming a member of UT Tyler Honors Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application for students entering the Honors Program in the junior year (Honors Associates):

The Honors Program at UT Tyler recognizes that many excellent students either do not qualify for the program in their first year, or come to UT Tyler after their freshman year. The Honors Program invites applications from highly talented and motivated students beginning their junior year at UT Tyler. Students invited into the program in the third year are designated as “Honors Associates,” and have the same rights and responsibilities as students invited into the program in the freshman year. The application for Honors Associates can be found at the back of this document.

Honors and Honors Associate Scholarship:

Students invited to participate in the University Honors Program as first-semester freshmen are eligible to receive the Honors Endowed Scholarship. In addition to the Patriot or Regents scholarships ($3000-$4000, respectively), Honors students will receive $1,000 to $7,000 per year for up to four years, as long as recipients remain in good
standing in the Honors Program. The application to the Honors Program also serves as application for the endowed Honors Scholarship. No additional scholarship application is required. The awarded Honors Scholarship is based on the rubric results described in the application section.

Honors Associates are eligible to receive an Honors Endowed scholarship for their last two years at UT Tyler. Honors Associate scholarships are a set amount, based upon the Program scholarship budget.

**Honors Student in Good Standing:**

Membership in the UT Tyler Honors Program is a privilege. Students accepted into the UT Tyler Honors Program are awarded an opportunity to experience an undergraduate career filled with exceptional honors-specific coursework, opportunities to interact with state, national, and international leaders, as well as participate in research driven activities. In order to maintain these privileges, Honors students must maintain a level of good standing within the Honors Program. Honors students in good standing must enroll in at least one Honors core course during each of their fall and spring semesters during their freshman and sophomore years. Honors students must also participate in each semester’s Honors colloquia. In addition to the Honors core coursework and Honors colloquia, Honors students must also complete contract courses and an Honors thesis as outlined in the Honors curriculum in order to graduate with the Honors Program distinction. Finally, Honors Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in order to remain in good standing with the UT Tyler Honors Program.

A UT Tyler Honors student will be removed from the program and will lose any Honors scholarship if any of the following situations occur:

1. The UT Tyler Honors student does not enroll in at least one Honors core course during each of the fall and spring semesters of their freshman and sophomore years.
2. The UT Tyler Honors student is absent from any Honors Colloquium event without providing an accepted, documented reason. (Acceptable reasons include university events, medical reasons, funerals, or other events approved by UT Tyler Honors Program Faculty prior to the absence.)
3. The UT Tyler Honors student fails to establish participation in a contract course (as outlined above in the Honors Curriculum) by the beginning of the student’s first semester of his/her junior year.
4. The UT Tyler Honors student fails to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA as outlined below.
5. The UT Tyler Honors student is not in good standing with the University or Judicial Affairs.
**Probation Guidelines:**
A UT Tyler Honors student will be placed on probation for one year if he/she earns a cumulative GPA below 3.0. Evaluation of the GPA will take place at the end of the UT Tyler Honors student’s spring semester of his/her freshman year and every subsequent fall/spring semester following his/her first academic year at UT Tyler. The Honors student placed on probation will complete a UT Tyler Honors Probationary Agreement (see attachment below) upon notification of their probationary status. If the terms of this agreement are not met in the timeframe outlined in the agreement, then the Honors student will be removed from the program and any Honors Scholarship will no longer be awarded. All Honors scholarships are suspended during the probationary period. It is the Honors student’s responsibility to notify the Honors director regarding any changes in GPA during the probationary period.

**Honors Advising:**
All Honors students must meet with an Honors Program advisor at least once a semester. The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate communication and help students stay on track in the Honors Program. Honors students are also expected to meet with advisors in their academic departments.

One of the privileges of membership in the Honors Program at UT Tyler is early registration. It is each student’s responsibility to meet with an Honors advisor well in advance of the start of registration.

**Contacts:**
Dr. Paul D. Streufert (director): (903) 565-5823; pstreufert@uttyler.edu
Ms. Bonnie Staples (Administrative Assistant): (903) 566-7450; bstaples@uttyler.edu

Fax: (903) 566-7483
UT Tyler Honors Program: Honors Associate Application

Name (last name, first name): ____________________  UT Tyler Student ID: ____________________

Address:

Phone: ____________________  Email: ____________________

Major: ____________________

Cumulative college GPA: _________________

_In addition to the information above, please submit the following with your application:_

1. Transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended

2. An essay (500 words max) in response to the following prompt:

   Honors Associates will participate in the second half of the UT Tyler Honors Program, which focuses on undergraduate research in contract courses and the Honors thesis (see Honors Program Handbook for details.) Explain your research interests and use specific examples of two courses in your major you would designate as contract courses. As much as you are able, speculate on an Honors thesis topic.

3. A letter of recommendation from a UT Tyler faculty member, preferably one with whom you share a research interest
UT Tyler Honors Program Probationary Agreement

Date: ______________________

Student: ______________________

Student ID: ______________________

I, ______________________, was placed on probation in the UT Tyler Honors Program after __________ (term – year) because my cumulative GPA fell below the minimum required GPA of 3.0. I understand that this probationary period will last for one calendar year at which time I must have earned at least an overall 3.0 cumulative GPA, or I will be removed from the UT Tyler Honors Program. I understand that I must earn at least an overall 2.75 cumulative GPA by the end of the upcoming fall or spring semester, __________ (term – year), or I will be removed from the UT Tyler Honors Program. I understand that no grades of “W”, “I”, or “F” are allowed during this probationary period, or I will be removed from the UT Tyler Honors Program.

I understand that I may utilize all available resources made available to me through the University and through my involvement in the UT Tyler Honors Program. I agree to meet with the UT Honors Program advisor at least once during each of the upcoming fall and spring semesters. I acknowledge that it is my duty to inform the Honors Program advisor of any changes to my GPA at the end of each semester.

I acknowledge that my Honors scholarship will be suspended until my cumulative UT Tyler GPA returns to 3.0.

________________________________________
Student’s name (printed)

________________________________________
Student’s signature ________________________________ Date

________________________________________
UT Tyler Honors Program Advisor (printed)

________________________________________
UT Tyler Honors Program Advisor’s signature ________________________________ Date
Honors Contract Course Agreement

Deadline for Honors Contract Course paperwork: the third Monday after the start of classes

Honors Contract Course for (please circle one) FALL/SPRING semester, 20___*

Course Number (i.e. EENG 4310) _____________________

Student Name (please print) ____________________

Faculty Name (please print) ____________________

Student Signature _______________________

Faculty Signature _______________________

Date_______________________

Date_______________________

Student Email _____________

Faculty Email ____________________

Student ID Number ____________________

Departmental Advisor Name __________________

Please attach on a separate page a detailed paragraph describing the additional work for this contract course.

******************************************************************************

Honors Director Signature and Date __________________________

* For summer course, see Honors director.
UT Tyler Honors Program
Contract Course Policies

Deadline: the third Monday after the start of classes

To graduate from the Honors Program, all Honors students must take two Honors contract courses, preferably in the fall and spring of their junior year. Contract courses require students to do additional work in a course in their major. The nature of that work will depend on the subject of study, the student, and the faculty member. Contracts may include an additional project such as a presentation to the class, additional readings, a more lengthy paper, additional research time in the faculty member’s lab, etc. When designing an Honors contract course, the student should seek to delve more deeply into the course material. The student and faculty member are highly encouraged to develop a specific description of the contract work that will satisfy the requirements for the Honors Program.

Additional policies:
- The course must be 3000 or 4000 level and approved by the Honors director.
- Students and faculty should plan to meet at least four times during the course of the semester to discuss the Honors contract components of the class.
- The student’s grade should reflect the regular work done in the course (i.e. exams, papers, labs, etc.) Honors credit will be awarded by the faculty member upon satisfactory completion of Honors elements. Honors elements should be graded on a pass/fail basis, independent of the regular graded coursework. Once the Honors Director has confirmation of completion of Honors elements, s/he will contact the Office of the Registrar to ensure that an Honors designation appears on the student’s transcript.
- In order to earn Honors contract course credit, the student must earn a grade of B or higher, as well as complete the contract work.
- If a student is unable to complete the honors elements of the contract, s/he should consult the faculty member and the Honors Director to discuss options.
- Failure of the Honors elements should not be the basis of an incomplete.

Honors student’s rights and responsibilities:
- To contact a faculty instructor and communicate interest as early as possible in the semester.
- To submit the Honors Contract Course Agreement (see the reverse of this page) to the Honors director no later than the third Monday after the start of classes.
- To be proactive in developing and articulating the additional work to be done in this Honors contract components of the course.
- To complete the assignments.
- To communicate with the faculty member and the Honors director throughout the semester.

Faculty instructor’s rights and responsibilities:
- To accept or decline to work with a student on an Honors contract course. Faculty may decline for any reason.
- To meet with the student at least four additional times outside of class to discuss Honors contract work.
- To guide students in articulating and completing contract work in this class.
- To hold students to the Honors Contract Course Agreement.

For further information please contact the Honors Director (Dr. Paul Streufert, ext. 5823, pstreufert@uttyler.edu) or consult the Honors Program website: http://www.uttyler.edu/honors