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Mission Statement:

The Honors Program at The University of Texas at 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.

Introduction:

The Honors Program at UT Tyler provides an intellectually rigorous, innovative education for students who want to be challenged and stimulated by new ideas, fresh ways of thinking and interdisciplinary opportunities.

The Honors Program is open to students from all majors. By participating in the Honors Program, students will have the opportunity to learn with some of the university’s most talented professors in small seminar style classes and receive personalized academic advising. Honors students also have special programming and opportunities for research and travel.

Students who complete the Honors Program will earn a special Honors designation on their final transcripts. This distinction will reflect each student’s enriched studies and accomplishments as a UT Tyler undergraduate. Because of the diverse and enhanced collegiate experience, graduates of the Honors Program are among the most sought-after by employers and graduate schools.
Honors Curriculum

The curriculum of the UT Tyler Honors Program is carefully designed to ensure that classes never exceed 24 students. Instructors are faculty selected on the basis of their demonstrated teaching excellence. All faculty are active scholars in their disciplines.

Honors is not a major. All students will complete the requirements of a departmental major such as biology, English, political science, civil engineering, nursing, or any other major that UT Tyler offers. However, there are certain requirements each Honors student must complete:

Honors Core

Honors students are released from meeting many of the specific courses required in the University’s Core Curriculum. Instead, Honors students will take Honors seminars to replace 12 of the following hours of Core Curriculum requirements in the following fields: Language, Philosophy, & Culture, Communication, Human Expression, and Creative Arts. Students also have the opportunity to satisfy the Mathematics and/or STEM Core Curriculum requirements with the following classes: Calculus I & II or Statistics I.

Students with AP or dual credit for some of these courses will work with the Honors advisor to find alternative course work. Qualifying students will take HNRS 2413 (Honors Calculus I) and HNRS 2414 (Honors Calculus II) in their freshman or sophomore years.

Below is a listing of the four required Honors seminar classes along with the core requirements the classes satisfy.

First Year - Fall
HNRS 1351—World, Text, & Image I
Satisfies Language, Philosophy, & Culture requirement

First Year - Spring
HNRS 1352—World, Text, & Image II
Satisfies Communication requirement
Second Year - Fall
HNRS 2351—World, Text, & Image III
Satisfies Human Expression requirement

Second Year - Spring
HNRS 2352—World, Text, & Image IV
Satisfies Fine Arts requirement

Students will still be required to meet the remaining 30 hours of the Core Curriculum through 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 student’s academic advisor. Even if a student’s Advanced Placement or dual credit courses satisfy core requirements, the student will still be required to complete all four of the Honors core courses.

Additional Honors Core Classes

Honors students are eligible to take any of the classes listed below and are strongly encouraged to satisfy their mathematics and STEM requirements with these courses.

HNRS 2413—Honors Calculus I
Satisfies Mathematics or STEM requirement

HNRS 2414—Honors Calculus II
Satisfies Mathematics or STEM requirement

MATH 1342.029—Honors Statistics I
Satisfies the Mathematics or STEM requirement. If you are interested in enrolling in the Honors Statistics course, please contact the Honors Coordinator for more information.

Honors Zero-Credit Seminar Courses

Each semester students will be required to attend a weekly one hour course. This course is designed to allow students to get the most out of their experience in the Honors Program during their time at UT Tyler. Topics will vary by student year, but will also allow students to prepare and reflect on the required colloquia throughout the year.

Contract Courses

Each UT Tyler Honors student will choose two courses within the major—typically 3000/4000 level—in which s/he will complete additional work under "contract" with a faculty member. This requirement typically occurs during an Honors student’s third year. 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 specifying what they are “contracting” to do in addition to the normal requirements of the course. The Honors advisor will work with Honors students and major advisors to select the right courses and approve the contract. Examples of student contracts can be found on the Honors Program website.

**Honors in the Major**

The Honors in the Major track is designed to offer current UT Tyler and transfer students the opportunity to complete upper division Honors coursework within certain majors. Students joining the Honors Program through Honors in the Major are full members of Honors with the same privileges and responsibilities accorded to all students. Honors in the Major coursework is designed in consultation with departmental faculty and must be taken in the final four semesters before graduation.

**Honors Senior Research Project**

During the fourth or final year of the undergraduate degree, each Honors student will investigate a research question in the fall and spring semesters, and compose either a paper for submission to an undergraduate research journal or a poster for presentation at an undergraduate research conference. The project is the culmination of the writing and research that the Honors student will have done in major courses. Typically, the Honors Research Project is developed under the mentorship of a faculty member in the student’s major field.

Honors students Thomas Getz, Levi Herrera, and Alicia Gackle visit Harvard University with Dr. Streufert while attending the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) meeting, November 2012.
Honors Colloquium

In addition to classroom requirements, Honors students will be required to participate in Honors Colloquium events occurring approximately four times each semester.

At the Honors Colloquium students come together to share, discuss, and debate various topics from courses, as well as hear and interact with distinguished Colloquium speakers. Colloquia will feature scholars, business leaders, lawmakers, religious leaders, and others to address the campus community. Past Colloquium speakers include filmmaker Patrick Mureithi (Icyizere: Hope), former Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff, and novelist Yann Martel (The Life of Pi). Colloquia may also include field trips or service learning projects.

If a student misses a colloquium event for any reason, that student must make up the colloquium event. A make-up colloquium must be proposed by the student who missed an Honors colloquium and approved by either the Director or Coordinator of the Honors Program. In addition to attending the make-up event, students must provide proof of attendance by submitting a 500 word reflective essay*. Students must send all make-up essays to honors@uttyler.edu by the last day of finals in order to have successfully made up missed colloquia for the semester.

Students must attend all colloquium events throughout the semester in order to maintain good standing with the Honors Program. If a student does not attend all colloquium events and does not make up missed colloquium events, that student will no longer be in good standing with the Honors Program. For more information on good standing, please see pages 9-10 of this handbook.

*A student who misses a colloquium event due to class or lab is not required submit the reflective essay. Class is defined as having a scheduled lecture or lab that appears on a student’s academic schedule. For reference, supplemental instruction and/or studying for a test does not count as missing for class. Students participating in study abroad or Archer are exempt from colloquia for the semester they are away.

Winners of the 2015 Quiz Bowl (an annual colloquium event)
Scholarships and Financial Assistance

Membership in Honors includes the privilege of receiving an endowed Honors scholarship. With the exception of the Dependent Children of Employees Scholarship, accepting a scholarship from the Honors Program does not preclude you from accepting or maintaining a scholarship from the University or another department or program.

Incoming Freshmen Students

Honors students joining the program in the first semester of the freshman year will receive a four-year renewable scholarship in the amount of $2,000. Renewal of the scholarship is contingent on the Honors student maintaining good standing in the Honors Program as defined in this handbook.

Current UT Tyler Students & Transfer Students

Current UT Tyler and transfer students invited to participate in the Honors Program are eligible to receive an endowed Honors Scholarship for $2,000, renewable for two years. Renewal of the scholarship is contingent on the Honors student maintaining good standing in the Honors Program as defined in this handbook.
Honors Advising & Class Registration

All Honors students must meet with an Honors Program advisor at least once a year. 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.

Students in the Honors Program enjoy priority registration. Priority registration allows students, regardless of the number of credit hours, to register with senior-level students.

Maintaining Good Standing in the Honors Program

In order to maintain the privileges of being in the Honors Program, 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 first and second years.
• Attend all colloquium events during the semester.
• Complete contract courses or Honors in the Major course work as outlined in this handbook.
• Complete an Honors Senior Research Project as outlined in this handbook.
• Maintain the minimum cumulative GPA
  • Students admitted in the Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, & Epsilon classes must maintain a cumulative UT Tyler GPA of 3.0 or higher.
  • Students admitted in the Zeta class and all subsequent classes must maintain a cumulative UT Tyler GPA of 3.2 or higher.

These requirements are evaluated on a semester basis. Failure to meet any of these requirements will result in the Honors student being placed on probation.

An Honors student placed on probation will be notified of their probationary status by the Honors Director or Coordinator. All Honors scholarships awarded to Honors students on probation are suspended during the student’s probationary period. Upon re-attaining good standing in the Honors Program, scholarships will be reinstated.

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

• A student does not enroll in at least one Honors core class during the fall and spring semesters of their first and second years.
• A student misses any Honors Colloquium events or fails to make them up by following the policies and procedures in this handbook and on the Colloquium page of the website.
• A student fails to participate in a contract course or Honors in the Major coursework (as outlined above in “Honors Curriculum”) in either semester of his/her junior year.
• A student remains on probation for two consecutive semesters OR has been on probation for three total semesters.
• A student is not in good standing with the University or Judicial Affairs.
Contact Information

Website: www.uttyler.edu/honors

General Questions, please email honors@uttyler.edu

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