

# The University of Texas at Tyler

## Honors College

### 2023-2024 Handbook

**Mission Statement:** The Honors College at the University of Texas at Tyler provides specialized content and programming for high achieving and intellectually curious students at our university. Academically, the program emphasizes small, unique courses with engaged faculty and rigorous undergraduate research. The Honors Program is made up of a diverse, motivated community of students that reflect the population and people of the East Texas region. We seek out and encourage intellectual curiosity, academic opportunity, and community engagement.

**Vision Statement:** The Honors College at the University of Texas at Tyler aspires to be the campus and regional leader in academic rigor and diversity by providing challenging and stimulating educational opportunities to the highest achieving and most intellectually curious students at our university and in the East Texas region. We aspire to be a nationally recognized Honors College that is deeply invested in our community and campus. We aspire to provide unique curriculum, programming, and opportunities for our students and the university at large.

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**Introduction:** The UT Tyler Honors Program provides specialized content and programming for high-achieving and intellectually curious students at our university. Academically, the program emphasizes small, unique courses with engaged faculty and rigorous undergraduate research. The Honors Program is made up of a diverse, motivated community of students that reflect the population and people of the East Texas region. We seek out and encourage intellectual curiosity, academic opportunity, and community engagement.

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

The UT Tyler Honors Program is open to students from all majors. If you are a high school senior interested in the Honors Program, please see the incoming freshmen application under the "Apply" tab on the left. If you are a current UT Tyler student interested in the Honors Program, please see the current student application, and if you are a transfer student, please see the transfer student application.

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**Curriculum:** The curriculum of the UT Tyler Honors College consists of academic and community requirements. All students who join the Honors College as a first-year student are required to take HNRS 1351 and HNRS 1352 without exception. All students in the Honors College are required to participate in at least one Honors academic experience each semester. This could be an honors' credited class, an Honors in the Major class, or Honors Track work (Research, Service, or Leadership). Honors in the major courses and Track work are reserved for students who have begun upper division coursework in their major. Without exception, all students in the Honors College must complete an Honors Senior Project during the last year of their undergraduate degree, and they must present their project at the Lyceum. Students on the Research track must also present their work at one additional academic conference or submit their work for publication. Outside of these basic academic requirements, typically all honors students must participate in a designated number of experiential events each semester to remain in good standing in the College. Students in the Honors College enjoy priority registration. This allows students, regardless of the number of credit hours, to register with senior-level students.

**World, Text, Image I-IV (HNRS 1351, 1352, 2351, 2352):** This series of interdisciplinary humanities courses introduce students to the root academic values of the Honors College. HNRS 1351 and HNRS 1352 are required for all freshman honors students during their first year, without exception. These two courses are team-taught and comprise a year long investigation into what it means to be human through a study of the history of civilization, philosophical thought, art, political theory, and literature. HNRS 2351 and 2352 complete the World, Text, Image series of courses through focuses on communication and creative expression. The Honors College recommends all honors students complete all four World, Text, Image courses as part of their degree plan. All four courses satisfy Core Curriculum requirements for all degree plans at UT Tyler.

**Honors Sections of Other Core Classes:** The Honors College also offers honors sections of several additional Core Curriculum courses including Texas Politics (POLS 2306), Microeconomics (ECON 2302), Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1301), Statistics (MATH 1342), Calculus I and II (HNRS 2413 and HNRS 2414), and rotating non-major Biology and Chemistry courses (BIOL 1330 and CHEM 1350). Honors students are strongly encouraged to take the honors sections of these courses to complete their Core Curriculum.

**Upper-Division Honors Tracks:** During the last 2 years of their academic degree plan, all Honors students will declare an Honors Track to focus their honors academic work. Students in Nursing and Psychology will participate in specialized Honors in the Major courses in their department with other honors students. Students in all other majors can choose from one of the following tracks: Research, Service, Leadership. These tracks allow students to focus on individual research, service, or leadership projects that enhance their major coursework and develop their personalized academic interests. Honors students can expect to spend 15-20 hours each semester on work for their chosen track.

**Honors Senior Project:** All tracks will culminate in the completion of an Honors Senior Project. During the last two semesters of their degree plan, all honors students will work on and complete a year-long project that encapsulates their upper-division track focus. This project will allow honors students to work independently with faculty and staff in their major area to develop this project, and publicly present their final work before graduation. Presentation requirements are dependent on track. All senior Honors students must present their Honors Senior Project at Lyceum.

**Honors Zero-Credit Seminars:** Each semester, Honors students are required to enroll in a zero-credit seminar course as part of their college requirements. These seminar courses are designed to promote college engagement and personal reflection and to help students keep up with college requirements and due dates. Students must attend and keep up with zero credit seminars requirements to receive credit for these courses. Honors Seminars are also where students will create and update their Honors degree plans to stay on track with honors academic requirements for graduation.

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**Honors Events and Experiential Learning:** The Honors College offers a variety of ways that honors students can participate in the College to remain in good standing. All students must engage in at least one academic Honors experience each semester; however, each student can choose between additional academic experiences, community experiences, and service experiences to meet their honors requirements each semester. Ideally, every Honors student will engage in academic, community, and service events every semester. Students are given a schedule outlining their options at the beginning of each semester. Honors events are broken down into 3 main categories with varying points: Colloquia (large scale events to expand students' knowledge beyond campus and the region), Symposia (smaller scale events to provide a deeper dive into specific majors, careers, or local features), and Community Events (these are planned by students in the College for community building and to provide service to the campus and region).

**Honors Point System:** Currently, Honors Students will meet their Honors College requirements by earning a set number of points each semester. All Honors courses, track work, and honors events have an assigned number of points, and Honors students have a variety of ways to earn the required points to maintain good standing in the College. Students can track their Honors points each semester through their zero-credit seminar enrollment.

**Lyceum:** Each spring semester, the Honors College hosts Lyceum—a student research showcase open to all undergraduate and graduate students on campus. All honors students are required to attend Lyceum each year as either an attendee or presenter for colloquium credit, and all senior honors students must present their Honors Senior Project at Lyceum before graduation. Administrators, faculty, and staff are also invited as attendees, judges, and moderators.

**Living Learning Community:** Incoming honors freshmen have the opportunity to live with other first-year honors students in a designated residence hall wing on campus during their first year on campus. This Living Learning Community (LLC) is led by an honors student RA and has special honors-focused residential programming. The LLC provides freshmen students with more opportunities to build relationships with fellow honors students.

**LOGOS:** LOGOS is the student group associated with the Honors College at UT Tyler and is intended to enhance a student's overall experience within the Honors College. They aim to foster a community of intellectuals through academic, service, and social events. The group works with the Honors College at UT Tyler to provide learning opportunities open to all Honors students.

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**Scholarships and Financial Assistance:** Your application to the Honors College also serves as application for either the Honors Scholars Scholarship or the Honors Endowed Scholarship. All students in the Honors College are awarded one of these two scholarships. Accepting a scholarship from the Honors College does not preclude students from accepting or maintaining a scholarship from another department or program.

**Incoming Freshmen:** First-semester freshman students invited to join the Honors College are eligible to receive one of two scholarships: the \$10,000 per year Honors Scholars Scholarship or the \$2,000 per year Honors Endowed Scholarship, both renewable for four years. Renewal of the scholarship is contingent on the Honors student maintaining good standing in the Honors College.

**Current UT Tyler students and Transfer students:** Current UT Tyler students and transfer students invited to join the Honors College are eligible to receive the \$2,000 per year Honors Endowed Scholarship, renewable for up to three years. Renewal of the scholarship is contingent on the Honors student maintaining good standing in the Honors College.

**Maintaining Good Standing in the Honors College:** In order to remain a member of the Honors College, students must remain in good standing with the College.

Good standing is defined as:

- Enroll in and complete HNRS 1351 and HNRS 1352 during the fall and spring of the freshman year
- Enroll in at least one Honors credited course every fall and spring semester before beginning your Honors track
- Enroll in and attend an Honors seminar course every fall and spring semester
- Complete 4 semesters of your chosen Honors track through specified coursework for your track
- Attend enough events each semester to meet the designated number of honors points required for good standing
- Complete your Honors Senior Project and present the project at Lyceum
- Maintain a minimum gpa of 3.2

Students will be removed from the Honors College and will lose their Honors scholarship for any of the following reasons:

- A student does not enroll in and complete HNRS 1351 or HNRS 1352
- A student does not enroll in at least one Honors credited course each fall and spring semester before they begin their honors track
- A student consistently does not attend Honors events to earn their required honors points
- A student is consistently absent from their Honors seminar course and does not complete the assignments for that course

- A student does not complete the requirements for their Honors track at any point in the two- year process
- A student does not complete their Honors Senior Project or does not present their project at Lyceum
- A student is not in good standing with the University or Judicial Affairs
- A student is caught plagiarizing work or cheating, regardless if that work is for Honors or not

**Probation:** An honors student whose gpa drops below 3.2 will be placed on probation. The student has one semester to raise the gpa to 3.0 or above, and a second semester to get the gpa to 3.2 or above. A student who does not get their gpa to 3.2 or above after 2 semesters may be dismissed from the Honors College.

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**Contact Information:**

UT Tyler Honors College website: [www.uttyler.edu/honors](http://www.uttyler.edu/honors)

General questions, please email: [honors@uttyler.edu](mailto:honors@uttyler.edu)

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