

# HONORS PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:

The Honors Program serves high-achieving and ambitious students at Fairmont State University. Honors students at Fairmont State benefit from participating in a deeply enriching intellectual environment, have the opportunity to form strong community bonds with their classmates and professors and are able to tailor their educational experience to best fit their academic and career goals. Regardless of your anticipated career path, you'll find that participating in the Honors Program provides you with a strong foundation upon which you can build towards your goals – whether that involves pursuing advanced studies at the graduate level, stepping straight into your dream job when you've completed your degree, and/or becoming an engaged citizen of the global community.

We hope you'll join us in taking your education to a deeper level!

## WHY CHOOSE HONORS?

**Priority Registration** -- Honors students have priority registration and are able to register early for classes. This ensures that Honors students will have access to the classes that best fit their schedules and will not have to worry about getting into classes they want or need to take.

**Mentorship** -- When they enter the Honors Program, students are paired with a peer mentor who helps them acclimate to life in college. They also work closely with the Honors Director and a faculty advisor in their field of study in shaping their academic goals.

**Community** -- In joining the Honors Programs, students step into a ready-made group of like-minded friends. They can elect to live in the Honors LLC (**Prichard Hall**) and they can participate in the many social activities of the Honors Association. The Honors Association provides opportunities for community engagement as well as the chance to become a student leader.

**Travel** -- Honors students have many opportunities to expand their horizons with travel, including the chance to participate in our annual "field day" in Washington D.C. or by joining our annual study abroad class, which involves eight weeks of curriculum followed by a week-long trip abroad to vistas like London, Paris, Istanbul, or Rome.

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"The Honors Program at Fairmont State University taught me to apply myself, critically think, and shoot for the stars. Not only did I learn so much in my time in Honors (both in the classroom and about myself), but it opened up many doors for me. I can say, without a doubt, that this program has helped me become the person I am today. I wouldn't be me without the Honors Program."

~ Alexis Keller, Class of 2011

"Being part of the Honors Program allowed me to register for courses with some of the most diligent and dedicated faculty on campus. These courses allowed me to use my imagination and creativity to ask interesting questions that lead to a better understanding of the course material. I also took part in the Honors Mentoring Program which really helped me grow as a mentor and made me realize how much I enjoyed helping others."

~ Anup Poudel, Class of 2013

"The Honors Program has given me the chance to grow into who I'm supposed to be. I've made new friends, traveled, taken thought-provoking classes, and found the confidence to do things I never thought I could."

~ Madeline Puppos, Class of 2022

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## HONORS PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Honors Program seeks to enhance and deepen the education of bright students by increasing their analytic skills, providing them with classroom experiences that encourage them to take charge of their education, helping them to undertake international travel, and supporting them on the path to wisdom. The Program encourages higher rates of retention and graduation as well as acceptance into graduate and professional schools.

## ELIGIBILITY

First-time Freshman who have earned an ACT Composite score of 26 or higher and/or an SAT score of 1180 or higher are automatically eligible for admission.

Admission to the Honors Program is also open to:

- Transfer students with 24 or more credit hours from an accredited university earned after high school graduation with a GPA of 3.4 or higher;
- First-time Freshman with a minimum high school GPA of 3.7 (unweighted) or 4.0 (weighted);
- Students who have not met the requirements listed above due to extenuating circumstances, but feel they are capable of meeting the Honor Program requirements and are able to provide a letter of support from someone familiar with their academic work.

## CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Students who join the Honors Program at Fairmont State University during or after the 2021-2022 academic year will be required to fulfill the following requirements:

Honors students will earn 25-30 credit hours in courses with an Honors designation and they will maintain a GPA of 3.4 or higher.

Required components include:

- HONR 1100 Honors Seminar (1 credit hour)
- HONR 3350 Honors Seminar in Special Topics (3 credit hours)
- Honors Senior Thesis Project:
  - HONR 4400 Honors Thesis Design
  - (3 credit hours)
  - Honors Thesis Project (3 credit hours)

The remainder of an Honors student's requirements can be satisfied in a variety of ways, including:

- Honors sections of Core Curriculum in Basic Skills, Critical Reasoning, and Personal Development
- HONR 2200 (Honors Mentoring) -- repeatable
- HONR 3301 (Honors Study/Travel) -- repeatable
- Additional sections of HONR 3350 -- repeatable
- Major requirements or electives with an Honors designation

NOTE: Modifications to the requirements outlined above are available for transfer students as well as for students majoring in **Nursing** or **Education**, due to the special accreditation requirements of those programs.



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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