

Honors

College of Graduate Studies and Research
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Honors Program Faculty (2011-2012): Kirsti Cole (English Composition); Christopher R. Corley (Honors); Anthony Filipovitch (Urban and Regional Studies); Vicki Hunter (Sociology); Nadja Kramer (World Languages & Cultures); Ronald Schirmer (Anthropology); Roger Sheffer (Creative Writing); Jocelyn Stitt (Gender and Women's Studies)

Mission Statement. The mission of the Honors Program at Minnesota State, Mankato is to encourage future leaders, researchers, and global citizens by providing high ability and motivated students with exceptional learning opportunities, mentoring relationships, and a community of scholars to pursue a variety of academic interests.

Program Overview. The Honors Program is dedicated to the development of three main competencies: global leadership, research, and global citizenship. Early in the program, students participate in a learning community in which they enroll in honors sections of general education courses that focus on competency development. As students move into courses within their major, they further develop their honors competencies through advanced honors seminars and individualized plans of study. Throughout their time at the University, students will participate in a number of co-curricular activities, which complement their plan of study. At the culmination of all coursework, seniors are required to demonstrate acquisition of the global leadership, research, and global citizenship competencies through a successful presentation and defense of an honors portfolio in HONR 475: Honors Portfolio.

Admission to the Honors Program. The Honors Director, in consultation with the Honors Council, grants admission to the Honors Program. Honors Program admission criteria are based on a variety of areas. No predetermined test score or class rank guarantees or precludes admission. The selection committee considers the applicant's demonstrated academic excellence as well as character traits such as perseverance, inquisitiveness, and hard work. Contact the Honors Program Director for application forms and procedures.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. Students must maintain a minimum overall 3.3 GPA to register for honors courses.

Pass/No Credit Policy. All of the Honors courses (including honors sections of general education courses and honors seminars) must be taken for a letter grade.

Transfer Policy. Transfer students should contact the Honors Program Director to have their transfer credits reviewed when they submit the application for admission.

Program Competencies.

Global Leadership Competencies

In order to achieve the Global Leadership Honors Outcomes, students will:

- A. Exhibit global leadership values
- B. Acquire knowledge of how regions interrelate and how these relationships shape international issues.
- C. Be able to work across cultures.
- D. Understand the power and complexity of using language across cultures.

Research Competencies

In order to achieve the Research Honors Outcomes, students will:

- A. Exhibit information literacy and critical thinking skills.
- B. Exhibit the ability to synthesize and integrate ideas.
- C. Produce original research or creative achievement.
- D. Contribute to knowledge.

Global Citizenship Competencies

In order to achieve the Global Citizenship Honors Outcome, students will:

- A. Acquire language and communication competence.
- B. Acquire cultural competency and awareness.
- C. Acquire social and emotional understanding.

Requirements. The Honors Program requires a core program of 23 credit hours.

Required Courses (2 credits)

FYEX 100 First Year Seminar (1)
HONR 475 Honors Portfolio (1)

Required Honors Sections of General Education Courses (15 credits)

Students must take at least 15 credits of designated Honors sections of General Education courses. These courses are offered for first year students and sophomores through the Honors Learning Community. In exceptional circumstances, juniors and seniors can enroll in these courses if space permits.

Required Honors Seminars (6 credits)

Students must complete a total of 6 credit hours of HONR 401. Course may be repeated for credit for each new topic.

HONR 401 Honors Seminar (1-3)

Language Requirement. In addition to their coursework, all honors students will demonstrate competency in a second language according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages "Intermediate Mid" level (for students continuing a language studied in high school) or "Intermediate Low" (for students studying a new language). Competency can be demonstrated through course completion or via examination.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HONR 201 (1-3) Honors Seminar

Seminars are offered by University faculty from a wide variety of disciplines. In addition, interdisciplinary seminars will be offered. See Honors Program Office or Office of the Registrar for specifics for each semester.

HONR 250 (1-6) Honors Service Learning

One way to meet Honors Program requirements is through Service-Learning. Students will develop meaningful Service-Learning activities which will involve an action and reflection dynamic. May be taken as traditional course or individually in consultation with the Honors Program Director.

HONR 255 (1-6) Honors Practicum

Honors students will be required to engage in significant learning experiences outside of the traditional classroom setting. A practicum typically begins with student interest that turns into an educational activity. Practicums will be individually determined in consultation with the Honors Program Director.

HONR 401 (1-3) Honors Seminar

Seminars are offered by University faculty from a wide variety of disciplines. In addition, interdisciplinary seminars will be offered. Examples of seminars being offered in the 2005-2006 academic year include Lord of the Rings; Heroes, History, and Social Context in Irish Culture; American Reflections: History in Performance; Hollywood Goes to Washington; Swann's Way; Frank Lloyd Wright; Writing Home; and Computational Linguistics. Because subject matter varies each semester, visit the Honors Program Website at www.mnsu.edu/honors or contact the Office of the Registrar for course titles and descriptions.

HONR 450 (1-6) Honors Service Learning

One way to meet Honors Program requirements is through Service-Learning. Students will develop meaningful Service-Learning activities which will involve an action and reflection dynamic. May be taken as traditional course or individually in consultation with the Honors Program Director.

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HONR 455 (1-6) Honors Practicum

Honors students will be required to engage in significant learning experiences outside of the traditional classroom setting. A practicum typically begins with student interest that turns into an educational activity. Practicums will be individually determined in consultation with the Honors Program Director.

HONR 475 (1) Honors Portfolio

This required course allows the student to articulate where and how he or she has met the Honors Program Learning Outcomes.

HONR 495 (2-4) Honors Senior Capstone Project

All Honors students complete a culminating experience which demonstrates considerable accomplishment. The Senior Capstone Project can be a research project, scholarly paper, creative activity, or other demonstration of excellence. Senior Capstone Projects can be done in coordination with the student's major subject area, or can stand alone.

HONR 499 (1-6) Individual Study

To be arranged with Honors Program Director.