



The Honors College at Eastern Michigan University

Student Handbook

2012-2013

Note: Students may choose to follow a newer version of the Handbook but are allowed to graduate under the requirements in the annual Handbook from the year in which they joined the Honors College.

7.25.12

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The Eastern Michigan University Honors College provides the intimacy of a small, liberal arts education within the context of a large, comprehensive university. To this end, both educational and cultural experiences for EMU's intellectually talented and motivated students are provided through challenging Honors courses and extra-curricular activities that encourage scholarly curiosity, leadership, civic engagement, and diversity. The Honors College offers undergraduate students opportunities for a wide range of experiences that aid in the development of their appreciation for creativity, the arts, sciences, critical issues facing contemporary society, and diversity among people and their cultures.

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm so pleased to welcome you to the Eastern Michigan University Honors College. Our college takes pride in offering the highest quality educational experience within an affordable, comprehensive university. The Honors College is comprised of an extremely accomplished group of students and faculty, and it is designed to encourage and reward achievement as well as innate talent. To succeed in Honors, students are encouraged to deploy talent through persistence and hard work.

We take academics seriously in the Honors College. Each semester students have available an array of outstanding classes meeting General Education, major, and minor requirements. Honors classes are taught by talented, passionate professors who are recognized in their disciplines. All Honors sections are limited to twenty students in order to encourage collaboration and rich interaction. In addition, there are many opportunities for students to mentor with professors, engage in research, and present work through the Undergraduate Symposium, the Mid-East Honors Association conference, and other sharing opportunities. In Honors classes students are expected to guide discussion, challenge peers, and take the lead on projects. I have no doubt that you are capable of meeting the challenges ahead.

As important as academics are, please keep in mind that a true Honors College experience is far more than just academics. All Honors students are encouraged to challenge themselves in myriad ways beyond the classroom by becoming student leaders, volunteering in the community, engaging in athletics, and exploring the cultural, social, and intellectual diversity of the university and community. Students are encouraged to push themselves both intellectually and culturally: go to the theater, listen to a lecture series, study abroad, learn a language, start a campus organization. If you take on these types of intellectual challenges, your life and the life of the university will be enriched immeasurably.

There are some things to know about how Honors works. This handbook explains what is expected of Honors College members. Read it carefully and keep it for reference. Other information will be announced via e-mail, Facebook, and the Honors College website; at Honors College gatherings and events; and via print communications. The Honors College staff is available and eager to help answer questions and solve problems so be sure to stop by the Honors College office in Starkweather regularly.

Since its inception in the fall semester of 1984, Honors has grown significantly while also earning the respect of the campus community. You can help sustain this growth by encouraging other qualified students to join and by channeling your energy, talent, and passion into creating a dynamic, vibrant Honors College. By working together, we can uphold the College's fine reputation as a dynamic place for developing the qualities of a true scholar: integrity, humility, creativity, curiosity, energy, and self-discipline.

Welcome to the Honors College!

Dr. Rebecca Sipe, Director

Welcome to the Honors College!

An Honors College member in good standing receives many benefits. Here are a few of them!

Relationships with Faculty

Being a member of the Honors College allows you to develop close working relationships with faculty from your first semester at EMU. These relationships lead to myriad opportunities for mentorship, research, networking, and involvement.

Enhanced Honors Advising

As an Honors student, you are offered access to close advising and support from the Faculty Associates and staff of the Honors College. We strive to assist you with a wide array of support including help selecting courses, setting up research support, and intervening (as possible) to help you work with various offices on campus.

Priority Registration

Honors College members in good standing enjoy the opportunity for priority or early registration. The purpose of this benefit is to allow you to build your schedule around Honors courses while space is still available; unlike many other sections, Honors classes are capped at 20 students, making early registration a must. While you can expect to obtain a favorable course schedule, keep in mind that the aim is to ensure that you can take honors sections. If your membership is probationary or if you have completed University Honors and are not pursuing Departmental Honors, you are no longer an active member of the Honors College. Therefore, this benefit will be suspended.

Four-Week Library Loan Period

You will be programmed in the library's automated check-out system to receive a four-week (28-day) loan period, seven days longer than normal for undergraduate students. If you are not receiving this benefit, notify the Honors office.

Housing

The official Honors College residence is Downing Hall. If you are a first or second year student admitted into the Honors College, you can apply to live in Downing Hall which is conveniently located near classroom buildings and dining facilities. This Community of Scholars offers students the opportunity to reside with peers committed to academic achievement. Upper-level housing for Honors students can be found at The Village.

Special Rates on Honors Trips and Events

You will be eligible for reduced rates for various events and trips planned for Honors students. This includes our annual trip to Stratford, complementary workshops, and special Honors events.

Complimentary Main Stage Membership

You are entitled to free membership in MAINSTAGE, an organization of EMU Theater patrons. MAINSTAGE members get EMU theatre tickets at reduced prices, invitations to members-only opening-night receptions, and reduced prices for the annual Theater Tour.

Honors Awards and Scholarships

- ✓ **Undergraduate Fellowships:** The Honors College, in cooperation with the Office of Financial Aid, offers about \$90,000 annually in competitive \$2,000/semester fellowships to Honors College members in good standing with at least 56 earned credit hours. Honors undergraduate fellows serve as apprentices to faculty in a teaching, research, or creative capacity. You must apply jointly with a faculty

member. Guidelines and application forms are available in the Honors office and on the Honors College website.

- ✓ **Founder's Award:** The Founder's Award was instituted in 1994 by former director and founder of the Honors College, Dr. Bob Holkeboer. Its purpose is to aid students who are interested in spending a part of their college career studying off campus. Information is available in the Honors office and on the Honors College website.
- ✓ **Susan and John Ullrich Endowed Scholarship:** The Ullrich Award was created to honor an Eastern Michigan University student for leadership outside of the student's course of normal study (e.g., athletics, clubs, student government, community volunteerism, or social initiatives). Students must have obtained junior or senior level class standing at EMU and maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA. Specific criteria for demonstrating outstanding leadership skills shall be defined by the selection committee. The Honors College selects the recipient, but eligibility is not limited to members of the College.
- ✓ **Brown-Chappell Endowed Scholarship:** The Brown-Chappell Scholarship was established in 2012 to provide an annual \$1,000 award for a high achieving (3.4 or above GPA) student who represents low socio-economic and first generation college or under-represented status. First priority is given to students in Social Work and/or McNair Scholars and second priority to students in the College of Health & Human Services.
- ✓ **Gene Helms:** The Gene Helms scholarship provides funding for one or more students in the Honors College at EMU to participate in the Rome and Florence Academic Study Abroad Program over winter break. The award varies but is typically \$800-\$1,000; it may be used to help pay for any expenses associated with the program.

Major Fellowships, Scholarships, Internships, and more

Several major scholarships and fellowships are available to qualified EMU students annually. The Boren, Truman, Rhodes, and Goldwater Scholarships are highly competitive, and though you may apply on your own, you need to be sponsored by the institution. In addition to these, the Graduate School administers the Fulbright Scholarship. Competitive applications must be started in early fall for January deadlines. We encourage you to apply for these prestigious awards and will help you with your application, essay, and interviewing skills. Additional opportunities for study, research, and internships during the summer academic year are also available. Participation in these programs can enhance your qualifications for major scholarships. Contact the Director of the Honors Collage to obtain further information.

Publications and Conference Presentations

Here are a few of the opportunities available for you to publish and disseminate your research and creative work.

- ✓ *The annual Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Symposium.* The Undergraduate Symposium takes place every March, showcasing undergraduate research. Many Honors students present their senior thesis research or the results from their fellowship awards at this event.
- ✓ *The annual National Collegiate Honors Counsel (NCHC).* The NCHC conference has a substantial program dedicated to undergraduate research. Information about upcoming conferences and other opportunities for presentations are always available in the Honors office.
- ✓ *The Mid-East Honors Association (MEHA).* MEHA offers opportunities each year for students to present at a regional conference. Many times students will take their Undergraduate Symposium Research to new audiences with the MEHA conference. The Honors College helps support student presenters for MEHA each year.
- ✓ *The Michigan Honors Association (MHA).* MHA holds annual meetings in the fall to allow Honors students to meet, network, and share research.

- ✓ Faculty professional conferences are held at the state, regional, national, and international levels. Honors students have been privileged to present and publish collaboratively with faculty members.

These represent a sample of the opportunities supported by the Honors College. We encourage you to take full advantage of your Honors College experience.

The Honors College Programs

Academics are the core of the Honors College. You have been admitted to the College because of your academic history. Our expectations as you enter the College are straightforward: that you continue the high level of performance which led to your admission and that you regularly earn Honors credit in your course work, either by taking Honors courses or by Honors contracts when no Honors courses are available. We encourage you to set a goal of graduating with University Honors, Departmental Honors, and Highest Honors. If you are a transfer student, we encourage you to achieve Departmental and Highest Honors. Our hope is that you will take full advantage of the many opportunities provided by the Honors College.

The following pages explain the “nuts and bolts” of membership in the Honors College. You will discover details about each level of Honors and about Honors courses, contracts, membership expectations, and resources.

Graduating with Honors

There are three levels of Honors certification available for our students: University Honors, Departmental Honors, and Highest Honors. For those who enter the Honors College as a first year student, the expectation is that students will progress from University Honors to Departmental Honors to, finally, Highest Honors. For students who transfer to Eastern with most of their General Education courses complete, it is typical to start with Departmental Honors in one or more majors or minors and progress to Highest Honors. Transfer students who enter under an articulation agreement may accomplish Full Honors (transfer Honors credits, Departmental Honors) and Highest Honors.

- *University Honors* is earned by successful completion of 24 Honors credits. Of these, 18 must be in General Education, 3 must be in the major or minor, and the remaining 3 may be in either General Education or the major/minor. Students graduating with University Honors must maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.3.
- *Departmental Honors* is earned by successful completion of at least 12 hours of Honors credit in the major or minor, including a senior Honors thesis or project. Credits earned in the major or minor as a part of University Honors may count toward Departmental Honors so that a student who finishes with both will have a minimum of 30 Honors credits. Many Honors students pursue University Honors and Departmental Honors in more than one major/minor. Students graduating with Departmental Honors must maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.3. Successfully pursuing Departmental Honors allows you to maintain your Honors privileges throughout your years at EMU.
- *Highest Honors* marks the most distinctive recognition of academic excellence in the Honors College. Upon completion of 56 credits, students may apply for Highest Honors. Completion of Highest Honors demonstrates a commitment to community, international awareness, service, and research. Students must apply for Highest Honors before they exceed 84 credits, maintain a 3.7 or higher cumulative GPA, and complete specific requirements (see below). To apply for Highest Honors, students must have completed or be in the process of completing University Honors and/or Departmental Honors.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of all the opportunities available as members of the Honors College. The following information helps to illustrate the requirements for each type of Honors certification. In order to graduate with Honors, the following criteria must be met for those students who join the Honors College in the fall 2012 semester or later.

University Honors

A. Coursework: 24 credit hours required

- A minimum of 18 credit hours must be completed in General Education.
- A minimum of 3 credit hours must be completed in the major or minor.
- The remaining credit hours may be taken in either General Education or the major/minor.

B. Honor Experiences: both areas must be satisfied

- Honors College Community-Based Intellectual and Cultural Activities
- Leadership and Civic Engagements Activities

C. Community Service: 40 hours required

- A minimum of 10 hours should be completed each year for four years.

Departmental Honors

A. Coursework: 12 credit hours required

- A minimum of 12 credit hours must be completed in the field of study.
- Six non-General Education credit hours earned pursuing University Honors may be counted toward this requirement.

B. Workshops

- **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities**
This workshop is designed for students beginning the process of undergraduate research (e.g., preparing an UG Research Proposal, getting ready for the UG Research Symposium). Students generally attend the workshop at the end of the sophomore or beginning of the junior year.
- **Honors Senior Thesis or Project Workshop**
This workshop covers the nuts and bolts of completing and processing the Senior Thesis/Project. Students generally attend the workshop the semester prior to the planned thesis completion.

C. Senior Thesis

- **Senior Thesis Proposal**
This proposal must be submitted to and approved by the Honors Director in the semester before completing the Senior Thesis Project. It includes a list of your Departmental Honors courses and signatures from the Faculty Sponsor and Departmental Honors Advisor, as well as a brief description of the thesis.
- **Senior Thesis/Creative Project**
A senior thesis/project must be completed for Honors credit in the field of study. This is generally a three credit Independent Study course.

Highest Honors

Requirements for Highest Honors are inclusive of academic work completed for University Honors and/or Departmental Honors. You must apply for Highest Honors between 56 and 84 completed credit hours. Applications are available at the Honors College website or office.

Category I: Academic excellence (all must be fulfilled)

- Letter of recommendation from honors faculty or honors advisor
- 3.7 GPA and Senior Thesis/Creative Project

- Successful completion of 24 Honors credits (across total program; inclusive of contract courses and contract study abroad courses)

Category II: Global citizen/global awareness (1 of 3 must be fulfilled)

- Study abroad
- Demonstrate competency of world language other than English (competency at the second year level)
- International internship or work abroad

Category III: Engagement and learning in larger community (60 hours inclusive of other Honors Community Service). Examples include

- Local community projects (e.g. internships, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Big Brother/Big Sister, projects that solve a local social issue or need)
- Campus sponsored activities (e.g. Alternative Spring Break, VISION sponsored programs)
- Internships (including nursing clinical and student teaching)

Category IV: Exemplary contribution in scholarship, leadership, or creative activity (1 must be completed)

- Contributing with a faculty member on a publication
- Presenting at the Undergraduate Symposium or at another local/state/regional/national professional conference

Details about University Honors

As noted above, University Honors requires 24 Honors credits—18 must be in General Education Honors classes, at least 3 must be in your major or minor, and 3 may be taken in either your major, minor, or General Education. There is no limit on how many General Education Honors credits that can be earned. Each fall and winter term, the Honors College offers approximately 40 to 50 Honors classes from which to choose.

Usually, you will spend much of your first two years at EMU working on your University General Education requirements. As a result, you will probably complete the requirements for University Honors during that time. It is your responsibility to schedule the number of General Education Honors classes that you need, when you need them. Remember, one of the goals of Honors General Education is to provide you opportunities to participate in a community of scholars. Therefore, only in extraordinary circumstances will contracting for General Education Honors credit be permitted.

It is important that you take an active role in tracking your Honors work as you go along. Two tools that are provided to help are:

- Honors course checklist
- Honors academic advising

You are encouraged to stop by the Honors office for assistance or to schedule an advising appointment at any time.

Details about Departmental Honors

Although for most departmental majors and minors Honors credit must be earned through “contracts,” some departments offer and require upper level Honors courses. Departmental Honors programs are available in all academic departments and programs. Typically, Departmental Honors is pursued in a major or minor where it is possible to earn 12 hours of Honors credit. Because you'll do most of your

work by contract, you'll find that the emphasis is on curricular flexibility and the close interaction between you and your instructors. As a rule, you should expect to do most of your Departmental Honors work during your final four semesters; however, you can begin earlier, especially in the "skill" majors (e.g., music performance, art, theater, foreign languages) where you may start as early as your first year, often concurrently with University Honors.

In some departments, additional and specific requirements are set by the academic departments or programs (e.g., the Department of Psychology has specific guidelines to follow). However, all programs require 12 hours of Honors credit, including a senior Honors thesis/project. You must be a member of the Honors College to join a departmental Honors program, but Honors College membership does not imply that admission is automatic. As soon as you decide to pursue Departmental Honors, please complete the Intent to Pursue Departmental Honors form, which is available at the Honors College website or office.

Some departments require a separate application and have more stringent admission and retention standards than those of the Honors College. Thus, before you begin your Departmental Honors work, you should make an appointment with your Honors advisor. Copies of some of the approved programs can be found on the Honors College website.

The Departmental Honors advisor will be your main source of information and advice. All departments and many program areas have Honors advisors. Usually, they do not provide general advising or scheduling assistance. Rather, their job is to help you prepare for and pursue Departmental Honors. In addition, their signature is required on all of their department's Honors contracts, as well as on your senior Honors thesis. The Honors College maintains an updated list of Honors advisors, and each department will know the person acting as their Honors advisor.

The Senior Honors Thesis/Project

The Senior Honors Thesis or Project is the major culminating experience for graduating with Departmental Honors. All Departmental Honors students **must** complete a Senior Honors Thesis. Also, both academic and Honors credit must be earned for the thesis, usually but not always through three hours of independent study. Some departments require that you complete a specific Honors thesis seminar or a research course, so be sure to check with your Honors advisor about the requirements in your field.

Your thesis/project may take various forms: a lengthy research paper, a public performance, a documented lab experiment, a computer program, a work of art, or a mathematical proof with appropriate documentation. Whatever form it takes, it should be a demanding exercise (three hours of credit presupposes about 150 hours of work), and the result should demonstrate exceptional skill and understanding. For non-traditional projects, you should provide sufficient prefatory information to help contextualize your work for your reader. In addition, you should include a section that helps the reader understand the value of your work to you and how it pushes your own scholarly or creative work forward.

As you prepare for your senior thesis, there are a number of things to keep in mind.

- Successful projects must be carefully planned in advance. *Do not wait until the semester you intend to graduate before beginning your thesis work.* The best time to begin is toward the end of your junior year or after you've earned at least six hours of Departmental Honors credit. At that time you should meet with your Departmental Honors Advisor to discuss the thesis/project and, if necessary, get a faculty supervisor. The supervisor should be a full-time faculty member who is knowledgeable in the subject and available to provide direction and

criticism. S/he will also evaluate the final product and conduct any oral or written defense that may be required. Once you have found a faculty mentor, you should meet with him or her to refine the scope of your project, agree on a project description, and negotiate such matters as format, methodology, and deadlines.

- Once you have established the nature of your thesis or project, you *must submit a Senior Thesis Proposal* to the Honors office. This application includes a list of your Departmental Honors courses and signatures from the Faculty Sponsor, Departmental Honors Advisor, and Honors Director, as well as a brief description of the thesis.
- As with any long-term project, you may run into unexpected delays along the way. For that reason, you should complete much of the actual work during your next-to-last semester. Since your thesis must be completed and submitted to both your academic department and the Honors office *before you graduate*, you do not want to jeopardize your graduation with Departmental Honors by waiting until the last minute.
- Although many thesis projects will be extended research papers, some will involve public performances, works of art, lab experiments, and the like. All projects *must include a written component*; in this case, the written product must carefully document the research or creative activity. Controlled scientific experiments, for example, may be accompanied by a lab report, charts, graphs, and tables; creative projects may be documented by a journal, explanations of performance decisions, photographs, annotated scripts and scores; or other mutually agreed upon component. As noted above, non-traditional projects should include sufficient prefatory information to help contextualize your work for your reader and a section that helps the reader understand the value of your work to you and how it pushes your own academic work forward.
- When you are working on your Honors thesis, you are eligible to apply for a Senior Thesis award – usually around 12 awards of about \$2,000 are given annually. Application forms are available in the Honors office and on our website; applications are due by January 15th of each academic year. These are awarded on the basis of the quality of the proposal and the availability of funding. Though some limited support for research materials may be available, these are not guaranteed. To receive Senior Thesis Award funds, the thesis or creative project must be approved by your department and received by the Director of the Honors College by April 1st unless an alternative arrangement has been agreed upon in advance.
- Your thesis must meet certain formal guidelines. It must be word processed using a 12 point font (preferably a Times based font), double-spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, leaving a 1 1/2" left-side margin and 1" at top, bottom, and right sides. It must begin with a Title Page (see Senior Thesis Workshop materials for an example), followed by a Table of Contents. Charts, graphs, tables, and illustrations may be incorporated into the main body of the text or as appendices. The main body should be followed by Endnotes, Bibliography, and Appendices, if they are appropriate.

The thesis/project will be made available to other researchers via Digital Commons, so you do not want errors in your document. It is your responsibility to ensure that the manuscript is free of grammatical, mechanical, and stylistic errors. There should be no visible erasures, strikeouts, or hand-corrections. Clear, clean photocopies are acceptable. In addition to electronic publication, your original manuscript will be copied and bound, so it should not be stapled or 3-hole punched. Unless your department requires a particular style manual, you should follow the latest MLA (Modern Language Association) Style sheet.

- Your completed thesis signature page must be signed by the supervising instructor, Departmental Honors Advisor, Department Head, and the Honors Director. You are responsible for obtaining the first three of these signatures. Once you have done so, you should deliver to the Honors office *three* copies of the completed thesis, *three* signed signature pages, *one* electronic copy of your Honors thesis project in one file formatted for either Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format (.rtf), and *one* copy of your graded Honors Contract for your Senior Thesis Project. The Honors Director will review and sign your thesis before sending it for binding. Bound copies will be sent to the student and the department. One print copy will be retained in the Honors College and an electronic version of the thesis will be sent to Halle Library for posting to Digital Commons (<http://commons.emich.edu/honors>).
- You *must* earn both academic and Honors credit for your thesis. To earn academic credit, you will generally take an independent study whose purpose is completion of the thesis. It is also possible to tie the thesis to a specific course in the area in which you're earning your Departmental Honors. The second option is not recommended as this will add three credits of work to an existing course (e.g. a three credit course contracted for the thesis would carry an expected commitment of a six credit course). To earn Honors credit, you must submit an Honors Contract for this independent study course. Check with your Departmental Honors Advisor to see if there is a specific course you need to take for thesis credit.
- Your completed, signed thesis, along with your graded Honors Contract, is due in the Honors office by the project deadline that you specify on the contract. Because it may take some time to obtain the required signatures, you should try to have the thesis completed a week or two earlier. *If you need extra time, you must obtain the written permission of the Honors Director.* While we will grant an extension when possible, the Honors College *must* have your completed thesis no later than the last day of the semester as grades must be turned in to Records and Registration in order for you to graduate with Honors.

NOTE: If you apply for graduation and find it necessary to delay to a subsequent semester, it will be necessary to re-apply for graduation with Records and Registration. Graduation application does not rollover to later semesters.

Other Graduation Requirements

Community Service

The Honors College is strongly committed to the value of community service. In order to graduate with University Honors, you must perform a minimum of 40 hours of approved community service – about 10 hours annually. You can fulfill this requirement in a number of ways, including:

- *Service completed in connection with a specific course.* The activity must be related to the course content and approved as a service activity by the instructor and the Honors Director. Such activities must be different from any project which would earn you contract Honors credit for the course.
- *Service arranged through a recognized campus office.* The Campus Life VISION project has a large listing of community service activities, some of which (e.g., Alternative Spring Break) it organizes and actively promotes. Likewise, Holman Success Center, Campus Life, the University Writing Center, and other groups are constantly searching for tutors for students who have special needs. You may fulfill all or part of your service requirement by taking part in one of these activities. Such activities must be approved by the director of the office by which it is sponsored.

- *Service which is a part of an ongoing on- or off-campus project.* Many residence halls and student organizations sponsor service activities. Again, you may fulfill all or part of your requirement by participating in some of these activities which must be supervised and have the approval of the Honors Director.

At least two events are required, and Community Service activities must be approved in advance. It is your responsibility to obtain this approval by filling out a community service agreement and having it signed by a member of the Honors staff. Community service agreements are available in the Honors office and can also be found on our web page. While you need not have completed all of your community service hours before your Exit Interview, you must have your service hours approved before you schedule the Exit Interview. Remember, all of your service hours must be complete in order to graduate with Honors.

The Honors Experience

An Honors Experience is an event or activity that will achieve one or more of the following goals.

- Develop leadership skills of Honors students
- Enrich the intellectual lives and minds of Honors students
- Help create a sense of community among Honors students
- Give Honors students broad exposure to cultural diversity and enrichment
- Enhance the international experience of Honors students

Specifically, Honors Experiences are co-curricular activities that broaden the educational experience by encouraging involvement in cultural and intellectual events/activities that promote civic engagement. An Honors Experience usually indicates a semester-long commitment. University Honors students are required to complete two Honors Experiences, one from each category as follows:

I. Honors College Community-Based Intellectual and Cultural Activities

Examples

- Serving as an officer of the Honors Student Association (HSA), Honors College Leadership Program (HCLP), or other Honors organization
- Serving on the Honors Connection staff
- Attending three (3) lectures of a series (e.g. Star Lecture Series, Bathhouse Reading Series, or other)
- Participating in the annual Honors trip to Stratford or other similar trips
- Attending six (6) unrelated intellectual/cultural events or activities
- Presenting at the Undergraduate Symposium or other professional conference
- Participating in Study Abroad

II. Leadership and Civic Engagements Activities

Examples

- Serving as a student representative on a campus committee
- Serving as an elected officer in a student organization
- Organizing a campaign for community action (Environmental awareness, voter registration drive, etc.)
- Participating in LeaderShape
- Serving as a New Student Orientation Assistant

Like Honors Contracts, there is no one, definitive Honors Experience that works for every student. Rather, the College encourages you to identify opportunities, events, or activities that will allow you to be creative, grow intellectually, experience the richness of the surrounding world, culture, and society, and become a part of the Honors Community at Eastern Michigan University. We also encourage faculty members and Honors advisors to identify on and off campus activities in keeping with the spirit of the Honors Experience, and pass these along to us at the Honors College as well as to individual students. Honors Experiences other than the Star Lecture Series and Stratford trip must be pre-approved by an Honors College staff member (Director, Assistant Director, or Faculty Associate). It is a requirement of the Honors Experience that you write a brief reflection essay at the completion of each Honors Experiences; the requirement is fulfilled only when you complete the reflection paper and file the Honors Experience form with the Honors office. If you choose to complete the Honors Experience requirement with six unrelated events, you must write a brief (one page) reflection essay for each event/activity you attend.

Note: With the exception of Study Abroad, an event or activity for which academic credit is earned may not be counted as an Honors Experience. Moreover, an event or activity that is used to fulfill the Honors Experience Requirement may not be used toward fulfillment of the Community Service Requirement, and vice versa.

The Exit Interview

You must notify the Honors College at least two months prior to your expected graduation date and schedule your Exit Interview. This interview takes about 30 minutes, and it is important for several reasons: to review your transcript and verify completion of requirements; to make sure your name, degree, and Honors graduation status appear correctly on your certificate; and to fill out an Honors College evaluation. You should bring with you a résumé or list of awards, honors, leadership roles, service activities, scholarships, and other forms of recognition, as well as information about graduate school acceptances and fellowships or employment acceptances. We also ask that you make a donation of \$20.00 to offset the cost of the Honors certificate and medallion.

Exit Interview deadlines are as follows.

<u>If Graduating in...</u>	<u>Exit Interview by...</u>
April	February 15
December	October 15
June	February 15
August (but walking in April)	February 15
August (but walking in December)	October 15

Recognition and Certification

We will recognize graduation with Honors in a number of ways. Your transcript will include an Honors designation (“With University Honors” and/or “With Honors in [Major/Program]” and/or “With Highest Honors”), with all your Honors coursework identified with an “H.” You will receive an Honors certificate along with the distinctive Honors medallion which you should wear at commencement. We will make every effort to award the certificate and medallion publicly, if possible, through an Honors graduation reception which is typically held in December and April. Upon request, we will provide you with letters of recommendation to support employment and/or graduate school applications, so it is particularly important to provide detailed information describing the nature of your achievements as an EMU Honors graduate during your Exit Interview. You will also be recognized as an Honor College graduate in the commencement program and during the Commencement ceremony.

In addition to graduating through the Honors College, you may be recognized by the University as a *laude* graduate. This recognition is independent of any HC designation. Your Honors degree indicates that you have completed the requirements of the Honors College. The Latin designations reflect your cumulative GPA upon graduation. At commencement, *laude* graduates wear a distinctively colored tassel; Honors College graduates also wear the Honors medallion.

- Cum Laude (3.5-3.6)
- Magna Cum Laude (3.7-3.8)
- Summa Cum Laude (3.9-4.0)

Note: In certain cases, the University will allow you to participate in commencement exercises before you actually graduate. This often occurs when you graduate at a time when there is no commencement ceremony (June or August) or when you have completed your course work but still need to finish an internship, field work, or some other requirement. In such circumstances, although you may “walk” at the ceremony, you will not be recognized as a graduate. Thus, you would not be listed in the commencement bulletin except on the Honors College page. Instead, you will be recognized in the commencement book at the following commencement ceremony, once you have completed all the requirements for your degree. Again, you *must* apply for graduation through Records and Registration for the term in which you actually anticipate receiving your degree.

Earning Honors Credit

You can earn Honors credit through either a special Honors course or a contract. A course grade of B- or better must be achieved to receive Honors credit; however, university academic credit (but not Honors credit) will be earned for any Honors course in which a passing grade of C+ or lower is earned. A course for Honors credit cannot be taken as “pass/fail.”

Honors Courses

Honors courses are taught as either special sections of regularly scheduled departmental offerings (usually as general education classes) or as specific courses developed only for Honors students. Some count toward University Honors, others count toward Departmental Honors, some count for either University or Departmental Honors, and some count for both (i.e., at least three Departmental Honors credits are required for University Honors but can also “double count” toward Departmental Honors).

Honors courses are available only to Honors College members, and enrollment is restricted to 20 students. Most students take one or two Honors courses per semester, but the number depends on one’s schedule, interests, abilities, and ambition. There is no maximum number of Honors sections you can take, and we encourage you to fulfill as many of your requirements through Honors sections as possible. Prior to the beginning of each semester, a list of Honors courses will be posted on the Honors College website and distributed to all Honors College students through the listserv.

Any foreign language class that fulfills an EMU General Education requirement can also be counted for University Honors credit, provided a minimum grade of B- is earned. Contracts for Foreign Language Honors credit must be completed and returned to the Honors College office during either the term the class is taken or within the first two weeks of the following semester. No extra project is required to earn Honors credit, and only one foreign language class can be counted for University Honors credit. Study abroad experiences may also count for Honors credit. See page 15 for details.

Honors Contracts

Honors contracts provide an opportunity to earn Honors credit in non-Honors courses and also provide a means to waive certain Honors requirements.

Honors contracts can be used for the following purposes:

- *Honors credit for a regular non-Honors course.* You can earn Honors credit in a regular non-Honors class through an Honors contract. Usually, this involves performing some additional challenging class work designed to enrich your experience in the course. Your Honors Contract project may be a research paper, class presentation, lecture, lab experiment, special set of readings, or even a series of discussions with your instructor -- anything that will enable you to examine an aspect of the course in greater depth. While you arrange the contract with the instructor in the course, it is subject to the approval of the Departmental Honors Advisor. This is the principal use for Honors contracts. When interested in contracting a class, keep the following things in mind:
 - ✓ In general, you can earn contract Honors credit only in upper-division (300 and 400 level) courses. You cannot contract for Honors in general education courses except with the **prior** permission of the Honors Director. Such contracts are seldom approved, especially when there is an Honors section of the same course.
 - ✓ The instructor you ask to supervise your work should be a regular, full-time faculty member (see your Honors advisor for guidance). Sometimes this may not be possible, but make sure to check with the Honors advisor first.
 - ✓ Students must take the initiative to develop a realistic, academically sound contract proposal. Be creative. The best Honors projects are those which enhance your classroom experience, not simply add more work. When you approach the instructor, do so with concrete objectives in mind and include realistic, specific deadlines in your proposal.
 - ✓ Plan ahead! Contracts need to be approved by the supervising instructor and the Departmental Honors Advisor. They must be turned in to the Honors office by the appropriate deadline: **October 15 for fall semester, February 15 for winter, and by the end of the first full week of classes for summer A and B terms.** If you don't obtain the necessary signatures or turn in the contract by the deadline, you may jeopardize your Honors credit.
 - ✓ Faculty members who agree to work with you are under no obligation to do so. Because their supervision requires an exceptional expenditure of time and effort, be sure to let them know you appreciate their help.
 - ✓ When an Honors Contract is completed, separate grades for the course and the Honors Contract project will be received. These grades may not necessarily be the same. However, if you are to receive Honors credit, your grade for both must be at least B-. If you take an incomplete for your Honors project, you must also take an incomplete in the course. Moreover, be aware that an incomplete grade could possibly impact your scholarships and/or financial aid or graduation.
- *Independent Studies* allow students to explore topics not covered in a regularly scheduled course and can be taken for one, two, or three credit hours. These are arranged through an

academic department. Usually, departmental permission is necessary for registration. Departmental requirements for independent studies vary, so inquire about the procedures prior to registration. Once registered, an Honors contract can then be arranged with the professor. The contract is subject to the approval of the Departmental Honors Advisor.

- *Graduate Courses for Undergraduate Honors Credit* can fulfill honors requirements. If you are a junior (i.e., 56 completed credit hours), you may enroll in a graduate course (500-level only) with permission from the Honors Director and the Associate Dean of the Graduate School. As a senior (i.e., with 85 completed credit hours), you may enroll in a graduate course (500-level only) with approval from the Graduate School. Use the 400/500 form found on the Graduate School's website (www.gsr.emich.edu) to seek permission to register. Once permission is granted, you may enroll online. The course may be used to fulfill Honors College requirements when you receive a B- or higher grade. No special project is required; however, a form for the course contract must be completed and submitted to the Honor's Office. Under current University policy, an "H" cannot be added to a graduate level course; however, these credits will be tracked as Honors credits internally in the Honors College. *(Note: the graduate tuition rate will be higher than the undergraduate rate. When you register for a graduate course, even for undergraduate credit, you will be charged the higher graduate rate of tuition.)*
- *Nonstandard Curricular Variations*. Subject to departmental restrictions, you can also use Honors contracts to earn Honors credit for a number of non-standard curricular variations, such as:
 - ✓ *Undergraduate Research*: Credit can be earned through an independent study.
 - ✓ *Foreign Study*: If the credits are transferable, you can earn regular Honors course credit; if not, then you can earn waiver credit. Honors credit for study-abroad experiences in general education courses must be approved in advance by the Honors Director. In a departmental Honors program, credit must be approved in advance by the Departmental Honors Advisor.
 - ✓ *Internships, fieldwork, clinical work, and co-operative education*: In some departments the most challenging job-related learning experiences can be designated for Honors credit. In some cases, your work supervisor may also serve as your supervising instructor. See your Departmental Honors Advisor or the Honors Director for guidance.

Setting up a Contract

A completed Honors contract form must be submitted to the Honors Office. Such forms can be downloaded from the Honors College website, obtained from the Honors College office, or picked up from your Departmental Honors Advisor. It requires a brief description of your project and needs approval signatures from the project supervisor and the Honors Advisor (and in some cases the Honors Director). It is the student's responsibility to fill out the form completely, to obtain all the appropriate signatures and to turn the form in to the Honors College office.

You must arrange all Honors contract credits early in the semester in which you expect to earn the credit.

<u>Semester of Contract</u>	<u>Date Due</u>
Fall Semester	October 15
Winter Semester	February 15
Summer Semester (A or B)	End of the first full week of classes

Examples of Contract Honors Projects

(ACC445) Design and implement an accounting procedures manual for a non-profit institution in order to strengthen internal controls and periodic reporting in preparation for an annual audit.

(ARTS210) Produce a sketchbook in a variety of media in New York City of New Yorkers in their natural habitat.

(BIO458) Catalog all fern species at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, labeling and classifying all species and entering catalog in TAXIR database.

(CTAC497) Assist in designing a communications contest for Domino's Pizza Corporation.

(COSC338) Deliver an hour-long lecture to the class on a co-op project at ERIM.

(ECON499) Construct an economic model that will explain movements in long-term real interest rates.

(ECE300) Assess 8 - 10 kindergartners using the testing tool DIAL and submit a written report to be presented orally in class.

(GEOG499) Produce a bibliography on prehistoric migrations into the New World.

(GERN-waiver) Achieve a "Sehr Gut" rating or higher on the *Zertifikat Deutsche/Fremdsprache*.

(PED300) Write a research paper on the structural and physiological differences between male and female athletes.

MAINTAINING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Honors College requires that you earn Honors credit on a regular basis and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.3. If you have any reason to believe that you are encountering a problem that could jeopardize your membership, please talk to a staff member in the Honors College. The Honors College staff is here to be of assistance. We will do anything we can to help you resolve your difficulties.

Honors Credit

We want you to take full advantage of all available opportunities. Thus, we require that you earn Honors credit on a regular basis. If you are working towards University Honors, some Honors credit must be earned each semester in which you take a minimum of 12 credit hours. If for two consecutive semesters no Honors credit is earned, your Honors membership can be terminated at the end of the second semester. Honors students tend to do especially well in Honors sections, so you are encouraged to take as many of your classes through Honors as possible. Once you have completed University Honors, or if you are enrolled only part-time, you must earn Honors credit each academic year. Two consecutive semesters without earning such credit will result in termination of your Honors membership.

If you intend to pursue Departmental Honors only, you must earn Honors credit during your first semester as an Honors College member and you should enroll in at least one Honors class each semester thereafter. We understand that on occasion there may be legitimate reasons why you cannot earn Honors credit within the allotted time frame. Exceptions should be requested by presenting your reasons *in writing* to the Honors Director.

Grade Point Average

To remain in good standing, you must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3. If your GPA falls to between 3.0 and 3.3, you will be placed on probation and given one semester to raise it back to at least 3.3. If you fail to do so, your Honors membership will be terminated and Honors privileges lost. If at any time your GPA falls below 3.0, your membership will be terminated; there is no probationary period granted in this case.

If you are put on probation because your GPA drops below 3.3, you will remain a member of the Honors College, but you will lose some of the privileges of membership. In particular, during the period of your probation, you will not be able to either participate in priority registration or apply for an Honors Undergraduate Fellowship Award. Once you have successfully met the conditions of your probation, you will regain all the privileges that come with being an Honors student in good standing.

Termination

Membership in the Honors College is a privilege, not an entitlement. It reflects both your academic success and your overall behavior as a member of the student community at EMU. Your membership in the Honors College will be terminated under the following circumstances:

- You fail to meet the terms of your probation.
- Your GPA falls below 3.0.
- You fail to earn Honors credit within the allotted time frame.
- You are guilty of academic misconduct, a serious violation of the University Student Conduct Code, or behavior unbecoming an Honors Student as determined by the Director.

Appeal and Readmission

We send probationary and termination letters shortly after the end of each semester. If you wish to appeal, it must be done *in writing* to the Honors Director *within two weeks* of receiving notification. Following termination, you can apply for readmission after an additional 15 hours of credit have been completed and your cumulative GPA is at least 3.3.

Dates and Deadlines

Use the following list to check important Honors College dates. These are recurring deadlines, so you can use the list every year. Other important dates, deadlines, checklists and forms can be obtained at the Honors College website. Most questions can be answered through e-mail correspondence. All reports, applications, and approvals are to be turned in to the HC office in Starkweather Hall.

Fall Semester

August	Orientation for new Freshman Honors Students
Early September	Make-up Orientations for new Honors students
September-October	Undergraduate Research and Senior Honors Thesis workshops
October 15	Honors contracts due in the Honors office
October 15	Winter Undergraduate Research Fellowship applications due
October 15	Notification of intent to graduate or walk in December
	Exit interviews completed

November 15 Fall Honors Undergraduate Assistantship interim reports due
December Fall Honors Commencement

Winter Semester

February 15 Honors contracts due in Honors Office
February 15 Notification of intent to graduate or walk in April;
Exit interviews completed
Mid-January-March Undergraduate Research and Senior Honors Thesis workshop
April 1 Fall Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship applications due
Winter Honors undergraduate fellowship interim reports due
April Winter Honors Commence and Award Reception

Other Useful Information

Regional and National Affiliation

The Honors College is affiliated with the Michigan Honors Association (MHA), the Mid-East Honors Association (MEHA), and the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). We encourage you to join and participate in these organizations, all of which offer opportunities for student involvement, leadership training, travel, and interscholastic networking.

Usually, MHA and NCHC meet every fall and the MEHA meets every winter. We are sometimes able to provide some financial support to active members who attend these annual conferences. Such trips may also be financed by the sale of Honors College identity items and other fundraisers.

Honors Student Association

The Honors Student Association is the HC's student organization, whose goals are to contribute to the success of the College, provide input into the academic program, develop leadership skills, and organize social events, fundraisers and service projects. The HSA meets regularly during the fall and winter semesters, and we encourage you to take an active role.