

Contact

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Joining the Honors College

- Students who are accepted to the University as first-year students are invited to join the Honors College based on high school and standardized test performance. The College works with the Admissions Office to identify appropriate candidates; no special application is necessary.
- Transfer students are invited to join the Honors College on the basis of their previous undergraduate performance.
- Faculty are encouraged to recommend students whom they feel are good candidates for the Honors College.
- Students who are motivated and interested in the Honors College are always encouraged to contact the Dean about joining.

University-Wide Programs

Program Description

The Honors College at the University of Maine provides a unique opportunity for a community of approximately seven hundred motivated students to investigate diverse academic areas of the University, to be challenged in a supportive intellectual environment, and to critically engage fellow students and enthusiastic, distinguished faculty in thoughtful, provocative discussion. The benefits and rewards are substantial, and the program is flexible enough to be tailored precisely to the individual student's needs and interests.

Honors at UMaine is founded on the belief that genuine excellence in college-level studies means substantial understanding and informed appreciation of areas outside a major field of specialization as well as focused excellence within it. With an emphasis on learning which both broadens and deepens, the Honors College serves to expand students' perspectives by exploring areas of thought not closely related to their disciplines and to allow them to work in their majors with greater intensity than would be possible within a conventional course pattern.

Small classes and individualized contact characterize the academic experience in Honors. First- and second-year Honors preceptorials have fewer than fifteen students, while third-year Honors tutorials are even smaller! The Honors curriculum culminates with a year-long thesis or project in which each Honors student works individually with a University faculty member investigating a subject of mutual interest.

Curriculum

To graduate with Honors, a student must

- complete the Honors *Civilizations* sequence (HON 111, 112, 211, 212);
- complete *Currents & Contexts* (HON 170);
- complete *A Cultural Odyssey* (HON 180);
- complete one Honors Tutorial (HON 308, 309, or 310) or an approved Tutorial Alternative;
- complete the Honors Thesis requirement: HON 498 and HON 499;
- graduate with an overall cumulative GPA of 3.30 or greater.

Students who are interested in joining the Honors College with fewer than eight traditional semesters remaining before graduation, whether they are transfer students or continuing University students, should consult with the Dean of the Honors College to determine a specific Honors course of study.

Specialized Information

The Honors College offers a self-contained curriculum that is designed to provide students from all disciplines the opportunity to explore interesting academic topics in considerable depth while developing skills in critical thinking and independent scholarship. Students accepted into the Honors College are jointly enrolled in at least two colleges, those in which they complete their major(s) and the Honors College. Usually Honors students take no more than one Honors course each semester. In this way students in the Honors College are continually involved in Honors and at the same time they are fulfilling the requirements for their major program of study. Sample curricula integrating Honors requirements with each course of study currently offered at the University can be found at www.honors.umaine.edu/curricula.htm. The Honors College works with the Honors Secretary in the student's major college, as well as that college's associate dean, to help each student design a course of study leading to an Honors degree.

Specialized Information (continued)

Completing the Honors College curriculum satisfies all of the general education Human Values & Social Context requirements as well as the Ethics, College Composition, and Writing Intensive (outside the major) requirements. For many majors it also satisfies the Capstone and Writing Intensive (within the major) requirements.

The curriculum of the Honors College is designed to complement practically any major field of study. The following quote expresses how one Honors student felt about her experience...

“These are the only courses where I have taken theoretical physics as an English major, kept a group photo of my classmates and instructor on my desk, been pushed to think on an entirely new plane, and been move to tears by the sheer brilliance of class discussion.”

- Laurie House '92

Academic Programs 2008-2009

Please refer to the web site (<http://factsheets.umaine.edu/>) for the most updated version of the fact sheets.

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.