Welcome to West Virginia University and the Honors College! This guide explains what you need to know for a successful start to your time here as an Honors student. We will be available during Orientation, and you can always contact us over the summer if you have any questions.

BUILDING YOUR SCHEDULE

DURING NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION, YOU WILL MEET WITH AN ACADEMIC ADVISER TO CREATE YOUR FALL SCHEDULE. IN YOUR FIRST SEMESTER, YOU SHOULD HAVE TWO HONORS CLASSES ON YOUR SCHEDULE.

THERE ARE 4 WAYS TO EARN HONORS CREDIT

/ Honors sections:
You can take Honors sections of traditional courses already in the curriculum. The sections are usually smaller, populated specifically by high-achieving students and built for a qualitatively different experience.

/ Honors courses:
These are interdisciplinary courses with innovative themes offered just for Honors students and can be identified in the schedule by the HONR abbreviation. Look for Honors Foundations courses (HONR 202-207). These challenging courses bring original faculty research and scholarship while meeting the University’s General Education Foundation (GEF) requirements.

/ Cross-listed sections:
These are small sections that meet simultaneously with regular classes, but Honors students work on an enhanced syllabus.

/ Add-on courses:
You can take a zero- or one-credit section that amplifies a regular course with additional material and engaging activities.

/ ONE HONORS COURSE.
Each student must register for an Honors course each semester, preferably a 3-credit course.

/ HONORS ORIENTATION ADD-ON.
Honors 298o will meet for the first half of the semester and will be led by upperclass Honors students.

/ YOUR SUMMER TO-DO LIST

HERE IS A LIST OF THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE FALL TERM.

/ Read “Station Eleven” by Emily St. John Mandel. This is required for your 298o orientation course.

/ Write your summer reading essay.

/ Watch your email for an Honors College entrance survey so we can see what your expectations are before you arrive.

/ Plan for early move-in day August 10.

/ Have a great summer!
FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

Early Move-in Day

All Honors College students, whether living in Honors housing or other halls, should move in one day early on Friday, August 10. You will receive your specific move-in time from the housing office.

Later that day, you and your parents should head down to the Morgantown Events Center in the Waterfront area for a cookout. Commuter students: you definitely don’t want to miss this. Watch your email for details.

After the cookout, Honors College students will participate in the Honors College Induction Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. The Dean of the Honors College and Honors College staff will welcome students, parents and guests. During this ceremony, you will receive the official WVU Honors College pin to signify that you are part of the Honors College community. This is a required event for new Honors students. Family and friends are welcome to attend, though space will be limited. For more information visit honors.wvu.edu.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Honors College Retreat

You will have a fun afternoon meeting your mentors, fellow students and the Honors College staff. The retreat is required and will count as the first meeting of your Honors 2980 orientation add-on course. Additional information is available at: honors.wvu.edu.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12-TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

Welcome Week

Join the Mountaineer family for exciting activities and explore the campus while learning about everything WVU has to offer. The schedule will be updated throughout the summer at welcomeweek.wvu.edu.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

Classes begin!
College does not teach you what to think, but rather gives you the tools to think clearly, concisely and strategically. Ponder that statement. What does it mean to you? As you prepare for this new chapter in your life, why did you choose to invest in higher education? What are your expectations? What kind of person do you hope to be after college?

Through the Honors College summer reading assignment, you will think critically, consider all options in order to make the best possible decision and work toward becoming the best version of yourself. This, after all, is a huge piece of what college is all about, and what makes the college experience something that is invaluable and life changing.

The award-winning novel, “Station Eleven” by Emily St. John Mandel, is the 2018-19 Campus Read at WVU. As an Honors student, we ask that you delve into the material a little deeper and reflect on the book before starting your classes this fall.

The Honors College has developed three prompts for you based around the reading. Please choose one prompt and write an essay that is 4+ pages, double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman font with one-inch margins (roughly 1,200 - 1,500 words). Your essay will be due the first week of classes (Aug. 15 - Aug. 21) during your HONR 298o orientation class.

From this reading assignment, we encourage you to consider the individual stories of each character in “Station Eleven” and relate their struggles and triumphs to the path you are choosing for your life. How will you achieve your goals in spite of many obstacles that may come before you? How will you face challenges and use your intellect to change your own life? What are the bigger forces in play that shape your education? We hope that you will take advantage of every opportunity set before you at West Virginia University, and that you will utilize all available resources here to shape your life into one unforgettable story.


**CHOOSE ONE**

// **PROMPT 1:**
Chapter 6 of “Station Eleven” begins with the words “an incomplete list” and describes all that was lost after the Georgia flu. Can you imagine a world with no more pharmaceuticals, no more airplanes, no more countries, no more fire departments, no more police and no more internet? In a story that makes the relevant become irrelevant, describe how you would decide what is needed to rebuild communities. How, essentially, would you reestablish society? What is a society? What are the building blocks of a community?

// **PROMPT 2:**
When faced with the unimaginable and material possessions are lost or rendered useless, people must decide what matters most. Explain the significance of the arts like the Traveling Symphony during times of adversity or hardship. On a less extreme level, elaborate upon how the arts affect one’s life during a period of change or stress, such as beginning college, using examples from the novel and your experiences.

// **PROMPT 3:**
In Chapter 10, the author states that “there is a problem with the Traveling Symphony, which is the same problem suffered by every group of people everywhere since before the collapse, undoubtedly since well before the beginning of recorded history.” Secret resentments, jealousies and neuroses suggest that some things may never change because it is simply the nature of human beings. What are some examples of how humans have contributed to our own demise? What are some examples of how humans have contributed to and advanced society? Use examples from the novel, current events and your own experiences.

If you have questions about the summer reading assignment, contact Ashley Watts at 304-293-1808 or Ashley.Watts@mail.wvu.edu. For more information about the book, visit campusread.wvu.edu.