



**WVU Honors College
Honors Foundation
Program Student
Handbook 2019-2020**

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Current Students

Honors College Mission

The Honors College enhances the undergraduate experience for high-achieving students at West Virginia University by building a community of scholars who enrich their education in the classroom and beyond.

Honors College Values

We lead.

The Honors College teaches students to be leaders in their classrooms and in their communities, pursuing a spirit of innovative thinking, responsible and accountable conduct, and extraordinary achievement. We model that leadership by fostering innovative learning environments that are “test-beds” for excellent teaching across the curriculum, and by epitomizing the integrity that we expect in our students.

We explore.

The Honors College helps students cultivate a curiosity about the world around them; develop persistence and resilience in solving the academic and social problems they encounter and research; and pursue an adventurous spirit that embraces intellectual risks for the sake of personal, academic, and community growth.

We build.

The Honors College builds an environment that empowers its students to construct their own solutions to individual and collective problems; to work harder and more deeply in the scholarly, research, and experiential activities they undertake; and to forge connections with peers, mentors, and community partners to better share our knowledge.

We work together.

The Honors College hosts an inclusive community of scholars by collaborating with faculty and staff across the entire campus; by facilitating connections among students through social and academic activities in both their living and learning environments; and by encouraging them to expand the scope of their work to include local, regional, and global contexts.

We are Mountaineers.

As a prominent component of West Virginia’s flagship institution, the Honors College cultivates an attitude of service to the Mountain State, our broader region, and the world. By combining a service mindset with the leader’s stance, the explorer’s vision, the builder’s work ethic, and the community’s collaboration, we embody and model the Mountaineer spirit.

Academics

We want you to take intellectual risks, make discoveries, explore the world around you, participate in exciting cutting-edge research projects, engage in community-based learning, and find your passion!

Honors Foundations Program

The Honors Foundations Program is a two-year program designed with the goals of engaging and developing high-achieving students by enriching their general education, while fostering community and service in Honors, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, and the world.

Program Requirements

To complete the program, students must:

- Complete a minimum of five Honors courses, and 13 Honors credits
 - Students must complete both benchmarks
 - 1 course/credit must be an Honors-eligible orientation
 - Ideally completed within four semesters; i.e. students will ideally complete one course per semester beyond the orientation.
- Meet ongoing requirements for good standing
 - After year one:
 - Complete at least two Honors courses/four Honors credits (including orientation)
 - Maintain 3.0 Honors and cumulative GPA
 - Students who do not meet this requirement will be suspended from the Honors Foundations Program
 - To extend after year two:
 - Complete four Honors courses/ten Honors credits (including orientation)
 - Maintain 3.5 Honors and 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Meet appropriate final requirements
 - 3.5 GPA in Honors credits
 - 3.0+ cumulative GPA at the time of program completion
 - Participate in the Honors exit process

Program Assessment

The final requirement to complete the Honors Foundations Program is to participate in an assessment of your Honors College experience. The assessment will occur via an online form and you may also be contacted for an exit interview. You will receive a link to the online form in the semester you intend to complete the Honors Foundations Program.

Program Benefits

- Smaller class sizes, often under 25 students
- Access to innovative Honors course topics
- Dedicated Honors housing and community activities
- Priority registration for classes before general population students
- Honors advising, tutoring, and mentoring
- Opportunities for peer leadership and community service
- Names highlighted/asterisked at graduation
- Connections with a community of Honors students

Honors College Policies & Requirements

Good Standing Requirements

There are several procedures in place to ensure that students maintain the academic rigor and integrity integral to the Honors College.

- After year one, students must have completed at least two Honors courses/four Honors credits (including an Honors-eligible orientation experience)
- After year one, students must maintain a 3.0 Honors and cumulative GPA
 - Students who do not meet this requirement will be suspended from the Honors Foundations Program
- To extend after year two, students must maintain a 3.5 Honors and 3.0 cumulative GPA, and students must have completed four Honors courses/ten Honors credits (including an Honors-eligible orientation experience)

Failure to achieve the required GPA after the first year in the Honors Foundations Program results in suspension from the Honors College. Suspension includes the loss of all privileges associated with being an Honors student. Note that suspensions from the Honors College are not recorded on university transcripts.

Honors Student Code of Conduct

As an Honors student, you will be held to a high-level level of academic integrity and your academic performance is subject to the following academic integrity requirements set forth in the University Catalog:

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecreditstermsclassification/#text>.

Failure to adhere to these principles may lead to action at the discretion of the Dean and subject to the West Virginia University Student Code of Conduct, which can be found here:

<https://studentconduct.wvu.edu/campus-student-code>.

Causes for Dismissal

Causes for dismissal from the Honors College include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Academic dishonesty
- Theft and/or destruction of University and/or Honors College property
- Criminal offense
- Violation of the Honors Student Code of Conduct

All dismissal matters are at the discretion of the Dean. For an explanation of the appeals process, please see the [WVU Student Code of Conduct](#).

Leaving the Honors College

Students wishing to leave the Honors College for any reason are asked to alert the Honors College office. You must send an email to honors@mail.wvu.edu from your University MIX email account stating that you wish to withdraw your membership from the Honors College effective immediately and include your full name. **We WILL NOT accept an email from any other account.** If you cannot access your MIX email account, you will need to come into the office and provide us with a written notice.

Earning Honors Foundations Credit

Students can earn Honors Foundations credit in a variety of ways.

Honors Sections of Traditional Courses

Most Honors courses are special sections of standard classes with a reduced class size (25 or less) and specially selected Honors faculty member. These classes are typically more focused on open discussion and interaction.

Innovative Honors Foundations Courses

Honors Foundations Courses are special topics courses that are listed under course number “shells” that are keyed to specific General Education Foundations (GEF) requirements. These courses are:

- HONR 202: Honors Science and Technology F2A
- HONR 203: Honors Mathematics and Quantitative Skills F3
- HONR 204: Honors Society and Connections F4
- HONR 205: Honors Human Inquiry and the Past F5
- HONR 206: Honors Arts and Creativity F6
- HONR 207: Honors Global Studies and Diversity F7

Sections will typically be capped at 25 students. Each accepted Honors Foundations Course will be offered once in each semester in an academic year and will rotate to an innovative new subject in the next academic year.

Honors Add-on Courses

Students may register for a non-Honors course while also registering for an Honors add-on section for that class. Add-on sections delve further into coursework. By completing the regular course and the Honors add-on requirements, students receive Honors credit hours equivalent to the number of hours offered for the regular course (typically 3 hours).

Contract Courses

Students may also receive credit for a non-Honors course by contracting it as an Honors class. By adding some extra course requirements (usually through more intense reading requirements, a special paper, and/or a final project), students receive Honors credit for the non-Honors course. In order to do this, students should contact their professor before the semester begins or early in the semester to fill out a contract form (<https://honorswvu.wufoo.com/forms/contract-application/>).

The form, when completed, must be submitted to the Honors College office within the first seven weeks of the semester. Student must earn a **B** or better for the contract to receive Honors credit for the course. (Contract courses are not typical until a student’s second semester in the Honors College).

How to Contract a Course

Applications for contracting will be reviewed on a rolling basis up until the Friday of week 7 of a given semester. The application should detail the assigned project and be reviewed with the course's instructor before submission. The Honors College does not mandate specific upper or lower limits on the work required for the contract; faculty members and students should work together to devise work appropriate to the course subject and level.

Projects should be substantive in both content and process, allowing for substantial learning and growth from students. The College recommends the project complete one of the following goals:

- Formulate original ideas from student-led research
- Expand meaningfully upon the base of knowledge discussed in class
- Understand and synthesize course material through experiential learning
- Develop professional skills and self-image by implementing academic concepts in a community or professional setting

In addition, the Honors College encourages projects outside of a research paper. Some examples include PR campaign, service project, laboratory research, and presenting in class or in the community. In some cases, contracted projects might be significant expansions of existing projects.

To consult with the Honors College on appropriate work, students or faculty may contact the Assistant Dean.

Full guidelines, supporting documents, and a link to the application can be found on the Honors College website.

Cross-Listed Honors Section

A cross-listed course can provide students with the option to be exposed to enriched content within the context of a larger course. For example, a course that usually enrolls 50 could have section 001 enroll 45 students and section H01 enroll 5 Honors students. Students in cross-listed honors sections will meet at the same time as the regular course, but the Honors section has a different syllabus with additional enrichment components. Ideally, such sections would also provide an opportunity for Honors students to collaborate or interact in some meaningful way.

Honors Peer Leadership Programs

Honors Mentor Program

Students who have completed a First-Year Seminar and earned a “B” or better in HONR 402: Peer Mentoring can become mentors for new Honors students. Mentors help with Honors Welcome Week, which includes early move-in and the Honors Retreat. Mentors also serve as teaching assistants for HONR 298O: Honors Orientation during the fall semester. Students can earn Honors credit through the mentor program by taking HONR 402: Peer Mentoring and HONR 490: Teaching Practicum.

Honors Tutoring Program

Students may apply to become a tutor in the testWELL Learning Center. If accepted, students must complete HONR 201: Peer Tutoring (spring semester), HONR 301: Advanced Peer Tutoring (fall semester) and pass a certification exam. Tutors are certified through the National Tutoring Association. The testWELL Learning Center is open in Honors Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-10 p.m. and in Lincoln Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-10 p.m. The testWELL Learning Center is a multi-subject learning center with walk-in hours. Tutors may earn additional Honors credit through the tutoring program by taking HONR 201: Peer Tutoring, HONR 301: Advanced Peer Tutoring and HONR 401: Peer Leadership Practicum.

To earn Honors hours, students must earn a B or better; therefore, Honors credit cannot be earned for a pass/fail experience, except for HONR 298O.

testWELL Tutoring

The testWELL Learning Center is a multi-subject learning center with walk-in hours. This Learning Center is open in Honors Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-10 p.m. and in Lincoln Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-10 p.m. All testWELL tutoring services are available to all West Virginia University undergraduate students. All testWELL tutors are certified and members of the National Tutoring Association.

See <https://www.honors.wvu.edu/current-students/academics/tutoring> for additional information.

Honors Advising

Students must meet with their Honors advisor each semester to ensure that they are progressing academically. Honors advisors are housed within the student's major. Many communications will instruct students to make these appointments near the **sixth to eighth week** in the semester. Go to your advising meeting prepared with questions and a potential schedule. Remember that your advisor is there to help and guide you, but ultimately you are responsible for your schedule.

Your academic advisor will be able to provide support in a variety of areas. You should schedule a visit with your advisor to talk about your major and career options that relate to the program, to discuss internship opportunities, and to develop/review your plan of study.

See your advisor when you have questions about your:

- Majors, minors, or certificate programs
- Schedule for the next semester or four-year degree plan
- Registration
- Academics in general

Your advisor will point you in the right direction.

Programming

Being engaged and involved with student life, extracurricular, and co-curricular activities while a member of the Honors College will enhance your academic career at West Virginia University. The Honors College faculty and staff may provide many academic, philanthropic, and social opportunities for you to get involved within the Honors community. We want you to be a leader in Honors, in your department, on campus, and in our community.

Honors Student Association

The Honors Student Association (HSA) provides opportunities for Honors College students to engage with one another, serve the community, enrich their academic experiences, and also to serve as a source of information and fellowship for students. To get involved, email Kevin.Gooding@mail.wvu.edu or check the Honors calendar for meeting times.

Honors Book Studies

Honors Book Study is a special one-hour class centered on a faculty-chosen book. While not held every semester, book studies are offered from time to time to allow students to have a different kind of class experience that is almost entirely discussion. Past book studies have been led by university presidents, the Honors College Dean, and distinguished faculty. The Honors website will be updated to display information pertaining to the Honors Book Study when it is being offered.

Living-Learning Community

The Honors College Living-Learning Community (LLC) provides opportunities for first-year Honors scholars to enhance and expand their education beyond the classroom through a variety of social events, skill-building seminars, and trips led by Honors College administrators and prominent West Virginia University faculty. The LLC also seeks to foster the building of relationships between students, faculty, and college and University administrators that hold the promise of further enriching a student's education and life at WVU and beyond.

Honors Experiential and Community Engaged Learning Program (EXCEL)

The Honors College EXCEL (Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning) program supports and enhances opportunities for WVU students in project-based learning. This may include: 1) discipline-specific research, 2) internships, 3) creative arts, innovation and design 4) global engagement, 5) community engagement or social action. All projects will combine scholarly work with service orientation and culminate in scholarly or creative work appropriate to the project. The Honors College will enable students' success through its mentoring, coursework and funding opportunities.

Program Requirements

Students in the Honors EXCEL program will complete coursework and other requirements in 3-4 semesters. Student projects will be developed in HONR 450 (Project Development), enhanced through out-of-class experiences (OCEs), implemented through six credits of experiential learning, and completed in HONR 451 (Honors Capstone).

Program Benefits

- Opportunities to deeply pursue projects of academic and personal interest
- Curricular and financial support for student projects
- Mentorship from faculty in the discipline and in the Honors College
- Connections with a community of Honors students
- Priority registration for classes before general population students
- Recognition at graduation, on the transcript and on the diploma

Eligibility and How to Apply

All West Virginia University students with a GPA of 3.4 or greater may apply to the Honors EXCEL program in the **spring of their sophomore year**. Students with lower GPAs may apply with a letter of recommendation from their project mentor.

More Information

For more information, please see the Honors College EXCEL website: <https://honors.wvu.edu/academics/honors-excel-program> or email HonorsEXCEL@mail.wvu.edu.

Appendix I: Honors Experience Timeline

Year One

First Semester:

- Enroll in at least one Honors course and HONR 298O (or the appropriate orientation)
- Check the Honors College social media and read the Honors Weekly email newsletters
- Schedule an appointment with your Honors advisor. You will meet with your advisor every semester from now until you leave WVU. Contact the Honors office if you are not sure who your Honors advisor is or where you can find him/her.
- Come in and meet everyone in the Honors Office
- Become active in the Honors Student Association
- Start thinking about how you will get involved in the Honors College and life at WVU!

Second Semester:

- Enroll in at least one Honors course
- Check out the Honors College social media and read the Honors Weekly email
- Schedule an appointment with your Honors advisor
- Stay active in the Honors Student Association
- Revise your resume. What new leadership roles have you taken on?

Year Two

First Semester:

- Enroll in at least one Honors course
- Check out the Honors College social media and read the Honors Weekly email
- Schedule an appointment with your Honors advisor
- Stay active in the Honors Student Association
- Update your resume again. What new clubs and organizations have you joined?

Second Semester:

- Enroll in at least one Honors course
- Check out the Honors College social media and read the Honors Weekly email
- Schedule an appointment with your Honors advisor
- Take on a leadership role in the Honors Student Association
- Continue to update your resume after each semester
- Participate in the required Honors exit process



The Honors College

250 Second Street | P.O. Box 6635 | Morgantown, WV 26506
Phone: 304.293.2100 | Fax: 304.293.7569 | Email: honors@mail.wvu.edu