Pierre Laclede Honors College

At the Pierre Laclede Honors College, we transform lives through engaged, individualized learning in and outside of the classroom. Our graduates are economically productive, ethically committed, thoughtfully engaged, active citizens who flourish within their culture and world.

Our vision is a community that empowers students to develop unique paths that allow them to pursue individual goals. Small classes (on average 13) allow students to learn by active questioning and conversation. Students develop strong communication and writing skills while exploring connections across areas of knowledge as they think critically within and beyond their majors. By exploring a wealth of beyond-the-classroom opportunities, Honors students develop the crucial foundation for future professional success.

The Honors College offers a certificate program that can be paired with any major without extending time to graduation. Classes in the Honors College are seminar-style, meaning that they are based in reading, writing, discussion, and critical thinking. This format fosters an intellectual climate centered around democracy, diversity, civility, and academic excellence. Members of the Honors College are engaged with their peers in a close-knit community of scholars from all majors and backgrounds, creating an invaluable interdisciplinary educational experience.

The four-year program is open to entering freshmen and extends over a student's entire undergraduate career.

The two-year program is open to select third-year students who are either continuing at or have transferred to the university, and a two-plus program is available for transferring sophomores.

The Honors College Writing Program

Both two- and four-year programs include participation in the Honors College writing program, writing across the curriculum, which involves writing in most honors seminars as well as formal courses in composition (including HONORS 1100, HONORS 3100, HONORS 3120, or HONORS 3160). In the final year, this writing emphasis culminates in the development of a personal Honors College writing portfolio (HONORS 4100).

Independent Study Requirement

All Honors College students, whether in the four-year or the two-year program, must fulfill a 6-credit-hour independent study requirement. This can be met in several ways, including supervised research, guided reading, internships, and in many cases capstone courses in the major.

Faculty Overview

Honors College instructors are drawn from university faculty in all academic divisions but mainly from the traditional disciplines of the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences. These teachers share a desire to work closely with intellectually curious, high-achieving students in specially designed, small discussion seminars. The honors faculty grows each year as new faculty join the honors project. Their talents add to the Honors College’s rich instructional pool of more than 100 regular and full-time faculty, many of whose teaching and scholarship have been singled out for special awards.

In addition, the Honors College has nine full-time academic faculty members whose responsibilities (besides instruction) include administration, admissions, student advising, and curricular design.

Honors College Certificate

Four Year Program (40 credit hours total):

Approximately one-third of the 120 hours honors students earn toward graduation are taken in the Honors College. Most of these credits are associated with a sequence of honors courses designed specifically for the college, the majority of which are taken during the first two years. During this period, these students fulfill virtually all of the university’s general education requirements, usually in innovative ways. In their junior and senior years, honors students also may earn honors credit for work done within their major fields, work which includes the possibility of internships, independent study projects, and advanced undergraduate research.

First Year

Students take HONORS 1100, HONORS 1200 and HONORS 1201 or HONORS 1202 and HONORS 1203, and one course each from the Western Traditions and Non-Western Traditions seminar series. Students may take a seminar from the American Traditions series as an elective or in place of the Western Traditions seminar.

HONORS 1110 Western Traditions: Humanities 3
HONORS 1130 Western Traditions: Social and Behavioral Sciences 3
HONORS 1200 Freshman Symposium: Cultural Traditions I - Humanities 3
HONORS 1201 Freshman Symposium: Cultural Traditions II - Humanities 3
HONORS 1202 Freshman Symposium: Cultural Traditions I - Social Science 3
HONORS 1203 Freshman Symposium: Cultural Traditions II - Social Science 3
HONORS 1230 American Traditions: Social and Behavioral Sciences 3
HONORS 1310 Non-Western Traditions Series Humanities 3
HONORS 1330 Non-Western Traditions Series - Social Sciences 3

1 Elective as an alternate to Western Traditions.

Second Year

Students take two of the following Honors classes:

HONORS 2001 Topics in Communication Proficiency 3
HONORS 2002 Topics in Information Literacy 3
HONORS 2003 Topics in American History and Government 3
HONORS 2010 Inquiries in The Humanities 3
HONORS 2020 Inquiries in the Fine and Performing Arts 3
HONORS 2030 Inquiries in the Social and Behavioral Sciences 3

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During the first two years, honors students will take additional course work in other areas, such as mathematics, natural science, foreign language, and major prerequisite classes to satisfy various university, Honors College, and specific degree requirements.

Third and Fourth Years
Honors students in the four-year program take at least four seminars (12 credit hours) from the Advanced Seminar (3000 level series). They may take more where this is compatible with their major and/or minor requirements. Honors students in the four-year program who take HONORS 3100 (“Writing the City”), HONORS 3120 (“Business Writing”) or HONORS 3160 (“Writing in the Sciences”) may present it for their honors certificate as one of their 3000-level seminars. They may also, depending on their major, present it to meet their graduation requirement for Junior-level composition.

In addition, honors students do 6 credit hours in independent study projects, normally in or closely related to their major field. These independent study projects normally carry credit in the major, but can be done as Honors College independent study or research projects (HONORS 4900, HONORS 4910). During the final year, students also take HONORS 4100, a one-hour capstone for the Honors College writing program; HONORS 4100 may be taken for two hours.

Two Year Program (22 credit hours total):
Students in this program will take a combination of Honors College seminars and honors independent study credit (usually for work done in their major fields). The 22 credit hours must include 6 credits of independent study, as for the four-year program.

Third Year
During the first year of the two-year program, students take three honors seminars, including HONORS 3100 (Writing the City), HONORS 3120 (Honors Business Writing), or HONORS 3160 (Honors Writing in the Sciences); one course from the Inquiries series (2000 level); one course from either the Advanced Seminar (3000 level). In addition, 3 credit hours of independent study may be taken during this year, normally in or closely related to their major.

Fourth Year
The final year of the two-year program involves three courses chosen from the 3000 and 4000 level options, including HONORS 4100, the honors
Honors graduates communicate effectively, across disciplines, in speech and writing by focusing on various perspectives, audiences, and disciplinary approaches and by employing correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics.

- By distinguishing among opinions, facts, and inferences: identifying underlying or implicit assumptions; making informed judgments; and solving problems through applying evaluative standards.
- By locating, critiquing, synthesizing, and distinguishing information from various scholarly and non-scholarly sources.
- By analyzing and synthesizing information from a variety of sources, applying the results to resolving complex situations and problems, and defending conclusions using relevant evidence and reasoned argument.
- By utilizing cultural, behavioral, and historical knowledge to clarify and articulate value systems while recognizing the ramifications of value decisions on the self, others, and the community.
- By identifying conflicts within and between multiple perspectives and value systems, recognizing and analyzing ethical issues in a variety of contexts, and employing standards of logic to formulate a reasonable position among perspectives.

Honors graduates, having completed coursework and experiential learning in diverse fields, are practiced in various disciplines and demonstrate essential skills and approaches relevant to those disciplines; they can apply those skills and approaches to their own areas of specialization.

- Honors graduates understand data and mathematical concepts; they are quantitatively literate; they understand and analyze data, draw conclusions, and solve problems.
- Honors graduates understand themselves and the world around them; they describe, explain, and predict human behavior and social systems; they understand the diversity and complexity of the cultural and social world, past and present, and come to an informed sense of self and others.
- Honors graduates understand the ways in which people have addressed their condition through art and literature; they analyze cultural works and their historical circumstances; they formulate judgments of these works.
- Honors graduates understand scientific principles, research procedures, and empirical methods of inquiry; they understand how scientific discoveries affect and are affected by theoretical views of the world and human history.
- Honors graduates have well-developed awareness of career and advanced study opportunities.
- Honors graduates demonstrate advanced knowledge in discipline(s), professional skills, and career and educational goals via participation in internships, independent study, undergraduate research, creative endeavors, community engagement, and study abroad.
- Honors graduates are self-aware of their writing skills and development and devise and revise documents for professional purposes, employment searches, and academic applications.

Courses

HONORS 1100 Honors First-Year Writing: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This course, the first in the Honors College writing sequence, is required and should be taken during freshman year. Through formal and informal writing assignments, discussion, instruction, and research, students will improve their critical reading, thinking, and writing skills, and their research techniques. The course is designed to help students meet the rigorous challenges of college writing across the disciplines by emphasizing intellectual inquiry, logic, style, correct and concise expression, and formal research and documentation. This course fulfills the University’s general education first year writing requirement.

HONORS 1110 Western Traditions: Humanities: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. All Western Traditions seminars will be based on the reading and discussion of works of exceptional importance in the development of western culture and civilization. The works to be discussed in each seminar will follow a central theme (defined by its particular relevance to the traditional academic disciplinary areas of the humanities, arts, social sciences, mathematics, or sciences) but will relate that theme to wider developments in Western Traditions and to the American concept of a liberal education.

HONORS 1130 Western Traditions: Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. All Western Traditions seminars will be based on the reading and discussion of works of exceptional importance in the development of western culture and civilization. The works to be discussed in each seminar will follow a central theme (defined by its particular relevance to the traditional academic disciplinary areas of the humanities, arts, social sciences, mathematics, or sciences) but will relate that theme to wider developments in Western Traditions and to the American concept of a liberal education.

HONORS 1150 Western Traditions: The Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. All Western Traditions seminars will be based on the reading and discussion of works of exceptional importance in the development of western culture and civilization. The works to be discussed in each seminar will follow a central theme (defined by its particular relevance to the traditional academic disciplinary areas of the humanities, arts, social sciences, mathematics, or sciences) but will relate that theme to wider developments in Western Traditions and to the American concept of a liberal education.

HONORS 1200 Freshman Symposium: Cultural Traditions I - Humanities: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This course surveys Western and non-Western cultural traditions from their beginnings until the 1700s. It will introduce the intellectual traditions of a wide variety of cultures through major works of literature, religion and philosophy. This course will approach texts and materials from a humanities perspective.

HONORS 1201 Freshman Symposium: Cultural Traditions II - Humanities: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This course surveys Western and non-Western cultural traditions from the 1700s to current times. It will introduce intellectual traditions of a wide variety of cultures through major works of literature, religion and philosophy. This course will approach texts and materials from a humanities perspective.
HONORS 1202 Freshman Symposium: Cultural Traditions I - Social Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This course surveys Western and non-Western cultural traditions from their beginnings until the 1700s. It will introduce the intellectual traditions of a wide variety of cultures through major works of literature, religion, history, and political theory. This course will approach texts and materials from a social science perspective.

HONORS 1203 Freshman Symposium: Cultural Traditions II - Social Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This course surveys Western and non-Western cultural traditions from the 1700s. It will introduce the intellectual traditions of a wide variety of cultures through major works of literature, religion, history, science and political theory. This course will approach texts and materials from a social science perspective.

HONORS 1230 American Traditions: Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Honors seminars in the American Traditions series involve reading and discussion of texts of major importance in the development of the culture, politics, ideologies, and values which are or have been characteristic of the United States of America. Every American Traditions seminar will cover a broad range of time, and each may include contemporary issues. Any course in the American Traditions sequence may be taken to satisfy one of the 'core' requirements for the American Studies Minor. This course satisfies the University's general equilibrium American history and government requirement.

HONORS 1310 Non-Western Traditions Series Humanities: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Seminars focus on different topics in the humanities but address themes and problems in non-western cultures that are related to the freshmen core classes (HONORS 1200 and HONORS 1201). These topics will be examined in depth through reading discussion, and students will produce formal papers and participate in individual or small group presentations.

HONORS 1330 Non-Western Traditions Series-Social Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Seminars focus on different topics in the social sciences but address themes and problems in non-western cultures that are related to the freshmen core classes (HONORS 1200 and HONORS 1201). These topics will be examined in depth through reading discussion, and students will produce formal papers and participate in individual or small group presentations.

HONORS 2001 Topics in Communication Proficiency: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Honors courses approved for Core: Communication Proficiency in UMSL’s General Education program.

HONORS 2002 Topics in Information Literacy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Honors topics approved for Core: Information Literacy in UMSL’s General Education program.

HONORS 2003 Topics in American History and Government: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Honors topics approved for Core: American History and Government in UMSL’s General Education program.

HONORS 2010 Inquiries in The Humanities: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Inquiries seminars focus on the particular contributions academic disciplines can make to relatively broad areas of inquiry, and reading, discussion, writing and where appropriate laboratory work or field trips will enhance students' understanding of the strengths, frailties, and particular characteristics of one or more disciplinary strategies. Inquiries courses may be used to meet relevant General Education requirements. Where special arrangements have been agreed, they can meet more specific departmental and divisional requirements. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 2020 Inquiries in the Fine and Performing Arts: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Inquiries seminars focus on the particular contributions academic disciplines can make to relatively broad areas of inquiry, and reading, discussion, writing and where appropriate laboratory work or field trips will enhance students' understanding of the strengths, frailties, and particular characteristics of one or more disciplinary strategies. Inquiries courses may be used to meet relevant General Education requirements. Where special arrangements have been agreed, they can meet more specific departmental and divisional requirements. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 2030 Inquiries in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Inquiries seminars focus on the particular contributions academic disciplines can make to relatively broad areas of inquiry, and reading, discussion, writing and where appropriate laboratory work or field trips will enhance students' understanding of the strengths, frailties, and particular characteristics of one or more disciplinary strategies. Inquiries courses may be used to meet relevant General Education requirements. Where special arrangements have been agreed, they can meet more specific departmental and divisional requirements. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 2040 Inquiries in Mathematics and Computing: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. HONORS 2040 Inquiries courses may be used to meet relevant General Education requirements in the Explore area of Math and Life/Natural Sciences. Where special arrangements have been agreed, they can meet more specific departmental and divisional requirements. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 2050 Inquiries in the Natural Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Inquiries seminars focus on the particular contributions academic disciplines can make to relatively broad areas of inquiry, and reading, discussion, writing and where appropriate laboratory work or field trips will enhance students' understanding of the strengths, frailties, and particular characteristics of one or more disciplinary strategies. Inquiries courses may be used to meet relevant General Education requirements. Where special arrangements have been agreed, they can meet more specific departmental and divisional requirements. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.
HONORS 2051 Inquiries in the Sciences: Laboratory or Field Work: 1 semester hour
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This course develops students’ understanding of how the experimental procedures of the life and physical sciences are used to collect data and to develop and test scientific hypotheses. HONORS 2051 is taken as a required companion course to specific sections of HONORS 2050. (Inquiries in the Sciences), when laboratory or field work experience is essential to the students’ understanding of and competence in the scientific subject matter of the companion section of HONORS 2050.

HONORS 2060 Inquiries in Business: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Inquiries seminars focus on the particular contributions academic disciplines can make to relatively broad areas of inquiry, and reading, discussion, writing and where appropriate laboratory work or field trips will enhance students’ understanding of the strengths, frailties, and particular characteristics of one or more disciplinary strategies. Courses in the 2060 series of courses, “Inquiries in Business,” satisfy the Social Science area of General Education. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 2080 Inquiries in Nursing: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Inquiries seminars focus on the particular contributions academic disciplines can make to relatively broad areas of inquiry, and reading, discussion, writing and where appropriate laboratory work or field trips will enhance students’ understanding of the strengths, frailties, and particular characteristics of one or more disciplinary strategies. Inquiries courses may be used to meet relevant General Education requirements. Where special arrangements have been agreed, they can meet more specific departmental and divisional requirements. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 2310 Cultural Diversity in the Humanities: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This seminar focuses upon cultural diversity themes, texts, and perspectives within the humanities.

HONORS 2330 Cultural Diversity in the Social Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This seminar focuses upon cultural diversity themes, texts, and perspectives within the social sciences.

HONORS 3001 Topics in Global Awareness: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Honors topics approved by the College of Business for their Global Awareness requirement.

HONORS 3010 Advanced Honors Seminar in the Humanities: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Open only to Honors College students and not acceptable for graduate credit. Usually restricted to Juniors and Seniors, these advanced seminars focus on in-depth study of a significant body of subject matter. The perspective employed will normally be interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary and will underscore the value of making connections between diverse areas of study. These courses will not usually require specific prerequisites, but may (with the consent of the appropriate department or division) be taken as major or minor courses. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 3020 Advanced Honors Seminar in the Fine and Performing Arts: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Open only to Honors College students and not acceptable for graduate credit. Usually restricted to Juniors and Seniors, these advanced seminars focus on in-depth study of a significant body of subject matter. The perspective employed will normally be interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary and will underscore the value of making connections between diverse areas of study. These courses will not usually require specific prerequisites, but may (with the consent of the appropriate department or division) be taken as major or minor courses. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 3030 Advanced Honors Seminar in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Open only to Honors College students and not acceptable for graduate credit. Usually restricted to Juniors and Seniors, these advanced seminars focus on in-depth study of a significant body of subject matter. The perspective employed will normally be interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary and will underscore the value of making connections between diverse areas of study. These courses will not usually require specific prerequisites, but may (with the consent of the appropriate department or division) be taken as major or minor courses. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 3050 Inquiries in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: 1 semester hour
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Inquiries seminars focus on the particular contributions academic disciplines can make to relatively broad areas of inquiry, and reading, discussion, writing and where appropriate laboratory work or field trips will enhance students’ understanding of the strengths, frailties, and particular characteristics of one or more disciplinary strategies. Courses in the 2060 series of courses, “Inquiries in Business,” satisfy the Social Science area of General Education. The course number may be repeated for credit whenever the topic is substantially different.

HONORS 3100 Honors Advanced Composition: Writing The City: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: 48 credit hours and consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This Honors course enhances critical thinking, research, discussion and writing skills by focusing on the city of St. Louis and on the specific fields of study of those enrolled. Issues such as depth and development of content, voice, style, tone, correct expression, and research techniques are among the topics emphasized. This course is required for transfer students (two-year Honors Program) and an elective for students on the four-year program. HONORS 3100 fulfills the University’s junior-level writing requirement.

HONORS 3120 Honors Business Writing: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: 48 credit hours and consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This Honors course further develops the experienced writer’s style and analytical capabilities to the level of sophistication necessary for upper-division writing assignments and for business and professional settings. Writing assignments may include business correspondence, reports, resumes, proposals, analyses, feasibility studies, and articles for in-house publications. The course emphasizes clarity, conciseness, organization, format, style, tone and mechanical correctness; expands upon students’ research and documentation skills; and requires research in university libraries. Formal assignments, including one large project and several informal papers, are required for this challenging Honors course. HONORS 3120 fulfills the University’s junior-level writing requirement.

HONORS 3160 Honors Writing in the Sciences: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: 48 credit hours and consent of the Dean of the Honors College. This Honors course is designed to meet the needs for students in the science disciplines; it will stress writing observation reports, academic journals, laboratory reports and a major project suited to the specific area of study of each student enrolled in the class. Instruction will include correct documentation of science sources, synthesis techniques of research information, technology-based research skills and effective laboratory reporting methods. Four formal papers, including one large project and several informal papers, will be required. HONORS 3160 fulfills the University’s junior-level writing requirement.
HONORS 4100 Independent Portfolio Writing: 1-2 semester hours
Prerequisites: Senior standing and consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Students in this course will meet with their instructor on a regular basis to discuss and revise their writing portfolio and write their master resume, career or academic resume, personal statements for graduate school, or other projects for careers or their futures. The course is required to be at least one hour and may be taken for two hours to allow for more personal time and assistance from the instructor.

HONORS 4900 Independent Study in Honors: 1-6 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Open only to Honors College students and not acceptable for graduate credit. Many Honors students will fulfill their Honors independent study requirements in another department or division of the university. Where this is not possible, the project may be undertaken as HONORS 4900. Students will complete substantial reading, research, and/or field work, and will be supervised by a permanent member of the Honors College academic staff.

HONORS 4910 Independent Study: Internships: 1-6 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the Dean of the Honors College. Open only to Honors College Students. Students enrolled in HONORS 4910 work at on- or off-campus locations to gain practical experience while developing professional skills. Students work with an honors faculty member as they document and reflect on these experiences in journals and a final report.