

THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM WEBSITE: www.nicholls.edu/honors

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WHY AN HONORS PROGRAM? Recognizing the exceptional talent and academic potential of its students, Nicholls State University has established the University Honors Program to award high-achieving students **like you**. The program enhances the curriculum in which you choose to major with **special, enriched courses** open only to honors students. In addition to these great courses, students in the program have the opportunity to conduct **independent research** under the guidance of our top professors, as well as earn college credits through **international travel**. **Our goal** through this program is to more effectively provide you with the backgrounds and experiences you need for success in your careers or further education. **Your goal** in completing this program is to earn the prestigious **Honors Award** at graduation. In addition, you will earn the **Honors Certificate** together with the Bachelor's degree in your major field of study. This *Curriculum Guide* tells you how complete the program and earn these rewards.

ENTERING THE HONORS PROGRAM. The University Honors Program is open to both entering and current Nicholls students who satisfy the following criteria. Entering freshman must have earned a composite score of at least 25 on the ACT test, with no subscore below 20. Current Nicholls students or transfer students are eligible for admission after earning at least 12 hours of full-credit (non-developmental and non-pilot) courses at Nicholls with a GPA of 3.2 or better. To become a member, you must complete an official application form that can be obtained from the Honors Office (111 Gouaux Hall) or printed from the Honors website (www.nicholls.edu/honors). A one-time, non-refundable fee of \$35 is associated with membership, and 100 percent of this fee goes toward student activities.

STAYING IN THE PROGRAM. To maintain the integrity of the program, minimum standards of progress have been established. To remain "in good standing" in the Honors Program, students need to:

- maintain a cumulative and semester GPA of at least 3.2
- complete at least one Honors course per academic year (Fall-Spring), which averages to one Honors course per semester.

Students who do not achieve the criteria listed above will be placed on probation for one semester so that they may work to regain their good standing status. Students who do not achieve the criteria listed above for two consecutive semesters will be removed from the program.

WHAT ARE THE HONORS COURSES? The University has established freshman-and sophomore-level Honors courses that are equivalent to specific general education courses required by all fields of study, and these are listed below. In addition, select upper-level courses are available for specific majors (not listed here). Students should watch for the availability of these Honors courses in the University's *Schedule of Classes*, published each Fall (October) and Spring (March). The Honors courses and the regular courses that they replace are listed below. **Note that these regular courses are required by all fields of study (all "majors"), enabling you to take Honors courses and still major in any field of study the University offers. In addition, note that none of these courses increases the number of hours required to complete the curriculum your field of study.** These courses are simply alternatives to regular classes, and these alternatives are limited to Honors students in good standing.

HONORS COURSE	REGULAR COURSE
ART 111—Honors Art Appreciation	ART 110—Art Appreciation
ENGL 111—Honors English Composition I	ENGL 101—English Composition I
ENGL 112—Honors English Composition II	ENGL 102—English Composition II
ENGL 211—Honors Studies in Literature & Culture	English Literature Elective
GOVT 111—Honors American National Government	GOVT 101—American National Government
HIST 105—Honors Western Civilization I	HIST 101—History of Western Civilization I
HIST 106—Honors Western Civilization II	HIST 102—History of Western Civilization II
HIST 160—Honors World History I	HIST 150—World History I
HIST 161—Honors World History II	HIST 151—World History II
MATH 113—Honors Pre-Calculus	MATH 108—Pre-Calculus
MATH 114—Honors Trigonometry	MATH 102—Trigonometry
MUS 107—Honors Music Appreciation	MUS 105—General Music Appreciation
SOCI 155—Introductory Honors Sociology	SOCI 151—Introductory Sociology
SPCH 105—Honors Public Speaking	SPCH 101—Fundamentals of Public Speaking

In addition to these Honors courses, you can earn Honors Course Credit in any non-Honors course by “petitioning” for Honors credit. To do this, you must complete a *Petition and Proposal for Honors Credit* form, which is available both from the Honors website, from the Honors Office, or from the Honors Study Center (161 Beauregard Hall). When petitioning for Honors course credit, you collaborate with the instructor of a non-Honors course to design a special, out-of-class assignment on a subject drawn from or associated with the course content. This out-of-class assignment (i) must be substantive and aligned with the goals and intent of the Honors Program, (ii) must be designed by and agreed to by both you and the course instructor, and (iii) must be approved by the head of the department in which the course is offered, the Dean of the college in which the course is offered, and the Director of the Honors Program. If you are petitioning for Honors course credit, you are responsible for following all directions and obtaining all signatures. To ensure that a full semester is available to undertake the special petition assignment, **the Director will accept petitions only within the first three weeks of the Fall and Spring semesters (or first two weeks of the Summer session)**. To ensure that you take full advantage of established Honors courses, a petition will not be accepted for Honors course credit in a regular (non-Honors) course in a semester when the equivalent Honors course is offered.

If you have been awarded advanced credit (through your ACT score or other advanced placement) in a course for which we offer an Honors course, then you will be automatically awarded up to six (6) hours of Honors credit. For instance, if you have placed out of ENGL 101 and MATH 102, you will be given Honors credit for each of those two classes.

COMPLETING THE HONORS PROGRAM. The annual *University Bulletin* (commonly called “the catalog”) lists the current requirements for completing the University Honors Program. To complete the program, you must complete at least 18 hours of Honors courses, two hours of Honors Forum (HUMA 111), and four hours of Honors Prospectus and Thesis (HONR 401 and 402), all with an overall GPA of at least 3.2. In total, the minimum number of honors credits that a student must earn is 24. You should keep track of the Honors credit you earn over the semesters; for this purpose, a special *Honors Credit Audit* form is available online and from the Director’s Office.

HUMA 111, HONR 401, and HONR 402 are components of the 24 hours required to complete the program. But, unlike the courses listed in the table above or those for which you may petition for honors credit, these courses don’t appear in the curricula for different fields of study at the University. In order to complete the University Honors Program, you must complete these courses in addition to the curriculum of your field of study. In some degree programs, however, HUMA 111 may serve as a Humanities elective and HONR 401-402 may replace a senior-level research course. Check with your academic advisor and department head in your field of study to learn if these substitutions will be allowed. HUMA 111 is a one-hour forum class in which special subjects are covered, developed, and discussed. Because the content of discussions changes each semester, you must take the HUMA 111 course twice to complete the Honors Program. HONR 401 and 402 are special one- and three-credit hour classes, respectively, for senior Honors students, in which the Honors student conducts and reports a major project (commonly called “the Honors Thesis”) in the field of study under the mentorship of a major professor. The thesis research is defended at the annual Honors Thesis Research Symposium held in April.

Upon completion of this coursework, you will receive the **Honors Certificate** in addition to the baccalaureate degree. Further, you will receive the **Honors Award** medal to wear at graduation, where you will receive special announcement. In addition, your transcript will read, “**Completed the University Honors Program,**” and you are granted the privilege of noting completion of the program on all future applications and résumés.

ADVISING. Each University student is assigned an academic advisor in the field of study. The advisor ensures that you meet all the curricular requirements for graduation. Advising is a flexible process and can occur at any time during the semester but should occur at least once per semester. The University dedicates special weeks in anticipation of Fall and Spring class registration (typically late October and late March, respectively) when students should meet with advisors in anticipation of Early Registration for the upcoming semester. Because Honors students must concern themselves with satisfying requirements for both the degree and the Honors Program, advising is a three-step process.

Step One: Before Registration, you must meet with your academic advisor to determine the proper sequence of classes for your particular academic major.

Step Two: After advising, you must meet with the Honors Program Director or Assistant Director, who will ensure that you have been and will be fulfilling requirements of the Honors Program. Note that the Program Director and Assistant Director are the only people authorized to enroll Honors students in Honors courses; you must request registration into Honors courses through them. To facilitate advising and avoid delays, you should always check the office hours of your advisor and the Director/Assistant Director ahead of time, and you should try to meet at these times.

Step Three: After advising, you may register your non-Honors classes (online using the BANNER system) on the first day of Early Registration, which is your privilege as an Honors student in good standing. However, to ensure that Honors courses remain exclusive to Honors students, you must request Honors courses directly by contacting the Director or Assistant Director.

FINAL ADVICE. Follow these directions and suggestions closely, complete all requirements, and you will be happy you did. Best of luck!