

Interdisciplinary Programs of Study

The College offers a variety of programs of study that are informed by more than one disciplinary field. They include the college's Honors Program, the major in Latin American and Latino Studies, and several minors, including Community Service Learning (CSL); Core Texts and Enduring Questions (CTEQ); Law, Ethics, and Constitutional Studies (LEX); Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS); and Women's Studies (WMS).

HONORS PROGRAM

Honors Council: Richard Bonanno, David Crowley, Regina Kuersten-Hogan, Carl Keyes, Cary LeBlanc, Paul Shields, Brian Volz.
Program Director: Molly Brigid McGrath.

Students in the Assumption College Honors Program are passionate about ideas and learning, eager to grow by taking on challenges, and committed to the common good of their communities. For that reason, Honors students select courses and projects that reflect their interests, connect their classroom studies with experience in the community, collaborate on research with faculty members, and design independent projects. Students selected for the Honors Program become members of a lively community that supports academic and co-curricular activities, the chance to build life-long relationships, and the opportunity to develop as persons. The Honors Program reflects the mission of the college by providing a curriculum that offers a high quality liberal education, in-depth disciplinary and professional training, opportunities to contribute to the community, and a basis for a meaningful personal, professional, spiritual, family, and civic life. It presents opportunities for students to explore connections among their courses, and also between their courses and life. The program promotes intellectual friendship and discourse while providing a common, intensive learning experience inside and outside the classroom.

The program commences in the first year with a yearlong Honors COMPASS linkage that continues into the spring semester: these are small, liberal arts courses, in English Composition and Literature, or in Philosophy, or in Theology, and linked with another discipline. In the sophomore year, honors students take one honors elective chosen from a range of courses, including, for example, Life Stories, Honors Physics I and II, Honors Calculus I and II, and the Literature of Social Responsibility. In the junior year, a seminar guides students as they identify a topic for their senior year thesis or capstone project, a significant piece of independent work usually in the student's major field of study. Going well beyond second-hand learning, students in the Honors Program experience a direct-engagement education by learning from primary texts, concrete experiences, faculty mentors, and personally driven scholarly projects.

Honors Program Goals

In the Honors Program students will:

- Cultivate independent thinking and learning
- Learn to interpret and evaluate information from a variety of perspectives
- Engage actively with various academic disciplines
- Develop and refine the qualities and responsibilities of honor, leadership, and service
- Carry out in-depth independent study in a self-designed project

Required Courses (7)

First Year, an Honors COMPASS linkage (2 courses) in the fall; recommended continued in the spring (2 courses)

Sophomore Year, Elective: any course with an honors designation

Junior Year, HON 300: Honors Seminar

Senior Year, HON 444: Honors Capstone Thesis

If first year linkage not continued in spring, two other courses with an Honors designation.

Honors Program Certificate Requirements

To earn an Honors Program Certificate a student must complete the seven courses described above as part of the Honors Program. Students are required to maintain a minimum GPA in those courses of 3.25 and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25. In addition, students are required to defend their honors thesis to a committee of at least three faculty members. First-year students receiving a 3.5 GPA in the fall semester are invited to apply to the Honors Program and may join the program during their sophomore year.

Program Benefits

Co-curricular Opportunities

To complement the academic experience offered in the Honors Program, Assumption College sponsors such co-curricular activities as weekend book discussions, trips to historic sites and cultural events, concerts, lectures, attendance at academic conferences, dinner discussions, and study abroad.

Honors Fellowships

Honors Students are encouraged to apply for summer fellowships provided by the Honors Program. These funds may be used for summer and independent research and to attend scholarly conferences.

Honors Housing

Honors housing is available for first-year students in Hanrahan Hall. This alternate housing option provides students with a living and learning community that fully supports and understands the attainment of academic excellence. The mission of the Honors housing is to provide students with an educational environment in a smaller dorm setting. Programming in the Hanrahan lounge will create many opportunities for less formal interactions between students, faculty, and the administration. Honors housing is highly recommended for members of the College Honors Program, but is not required. Honors housing is also open to a limited number of students outside the Honors Program who are interested in being part of a friendly, relaxed, supportive, and intellectually stimulating living-learning community.

Honors Suite

An Honors Suite is available in Tsotsis 247 for members of the Honors community. This space is available for study, consultation, and conversation by all Honors Students. Receptions between faculty, students, and campus speakers and performers will be scheduled in the Honors Suite periodically throughout the semester. The space contains a reading room and lounge, computer facilities, meeting space, and advisory offices.

Recognition

Honors Capstone Projects are bound and archived in the d'Alzon Library. Recipients of Summer Fellowships are recognized campus-wide. Graduates of the Honors Program receive a certificate at commencement, are marked as such in the Commencement Program, and have Honors denoted on their official transcript.

Course Descriptions

HON 200 LIFE STORIES (CSL)

This course explores the interconnectedness of human experience across time and place. It uses personal narratives and biographies to study the relationship between reflection and action. Coursework focuses on the challenges individuals face, the choices they make, and how those choices shape and define their lives. Studying life stories prompts contemplation of how we make choices, the connections between what we believe and what we do, and how we can build meaningful lives. This course introduces students to Honors-level reading, writing, and discussion. The course includes a community service learning component. Prerequisite: Membership in Honors Program. (Fall and Spring)

Hodgen/Land/Three credits

HON 300 HONORS SEMINAR

The Honors Seminar will help students identify a faculty mentor and develop a project topic for their Honors Capstone thesis. Each student will prepare a brief abstract, a substantial description of the project, an annotated bibliography of relevant sources, and a timeline for completion of the project. Students will defend their complete project proposals to an audience of their peers and faculty mentors during the final weeks of the semester. Prerequisites: four previous honors courses and membership in Honors Program. (Fall and Spring)

Loustaunau, Vaughan/*Three credits*

HON 444 HONORS CAPSTONE

In the Honors Capstone, each student will produce an independent research thesis or creative project under the supervision of a faculty mentor. (The project is proposed and approved during HON300 Honors Seminar.) Students will meet on a weekly basis with their faculty mentor for advice and guidance, but primarily will work independently on the project throughout the semester. A summary and defense of the capstone work will be organized by the faculty mentor and completed by the end of the spring semester. Prerequisites: HON 300 and Membership in Honors Program. (Fall and Spring)

Staff/Three credits