



**The University of North Texas
HONORS COLLEGE HANDBOOK
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1155 Union Circle, #310529
Sage Hall 320
Denton, TX 76203-0529

Phone: 940-565-3305
Fax: 940-369-7370
HonorsCollege@unt.edu
[Honors.unt.edu](https://honors.unt.edu)

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A. About the Honors College

The Honors College at the University of North Texas is committed to promoting academic excellence and fostering intellectual growth, while also focusing on the whole experience of the students. Honors students become part of a community of scholars, with access to Honors classes and a wide array of special programming and privileges.

The Honors College is designed to work with every major at UNT. Many Honors courses can be substituted into the general education core requirements that all students must satisfy to receive the baccalaureate degree. That means that students will often be able to take an Honors course for core credit. Upon commencement, Honors College graduates are entitled to wear the Honors College Medallion and to have transcript designation if an Honors Award is achieved.

Mission of the Honors College

The mission of the Honors College is to enrich the academic and intellectual experience of talented and motivated undergraduate students by promoting the pursuit of excellence at the University of North Texas. Honors students have opportunities to build an intellectual and academic framework that fully prepares them for graduate school, a career, and lifelong learning.

Benefits of Honors College Membership

Honors students may take advantage of many opportunities, including:

Specially designed classes to provide a challenging but supportive academic environment;

Training in research methods and skills, providing opportunities to present research at Honors and professional conferences;

Advising by Honors College academic counselors;

Honors housing;

Special programming for Honors College students developed by Honors College Student Life staff and the Honors College Programming Council (HCPC)

Opportunities to engage with professors, deans, and faculty members;

Assistance in applying for major scholarships, fellowships, and awards;

Special library privileges;

Conferral of the Honors Medallion and special listing in the commencement program;

Transcript designation to provide a permanent record of Honors participation; and

Priority registration once a student has enrolled in or completed an Honors class.

B. Membership in the Honors College

Application and Activation of Membership

Students who wish to be members of the Honors College must submit an application at Honors.unt.edu. Once admitted to the Honors College, a student activates their membership by enrolling in an Honors class the semester following admission. *Only students with active membership may enroll in Honors classes, participate in Honors College events, live in Honors housing, and enjoy priority registration.*

Maintaining Active Membership

To maintain active membership, an Honors Student must successfully complete at least one Honors College academic experience per academic year and maintain a cumulative UNT Grade Point Average of at least 3.0. Note that the GPA requirement for all Honors College Distinctions is 3.25. Thus, maintaining active membership does not guarantee eligibility for an Honors College recognition upon graduation; all award requirements are discussed in Section D.

A student whose cumulative GPA is below 3.0 is placed on probation/alert for the next semester. During that time, the student will still have access to all benefits of Honors College membership. If the student's GPA remains below 3.0 for two semesters, their Honors College membership will become inactive and they will be placed on leave of absence resulting in a loss of access to Honors College membership benefits. A student can return to active membership by raising their cumulative GPA to a 3.0 or higher.

A student whose cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0 will be placed on leave of absence for the following semester. A student can return to active membership by raising their cumulative GPA to a 3.0 or higher.

Once a student earns 18 Honors credits the student's membership is considered active until completion of the baccalaureate degree as long as the student maintains the required GPA and adheres to the conduct standards of the Honors College.

Conduct Standards

In addition to maintaining the academic standards for active membership, Honors College students are expected to adhere to the *University of North Texas Code of Student Conduct*. Honors College students are expected to attend events when they have made commitments to do so.

Termination of Membership

Membership in the Honors College will be terminated if:

A student fails to activate his or her membership in the semester after admission;

A student whose membership has been activated but has not earned 18 Honors credits, fails to successfully complete at least 1 Honors College academic experience per academic year;

A student who is placed on Honors academic alert does not raise their UNT cumulative GPA to a 3.0 by the end of the next semester.

A student's cumulative UNT GPA falls below a 2.0.

A student is found guilty of, or pleads guilty to, violations of the *University of North Texas Code of Student Conduct* or state or federal law. For example, a student's membership in the Honors College will be terminated for a violation such as academic dishonesty or a legal felony, such as an assault, to which they have pled guilty or has been convicted.

A student requests in writing to have their name removed from Honors College membership.

C. *How to Earn Honors Credits*

Honors Classes

Honors classes are specially designed courses that offer an intellectually exciting and challenging experience for the student. Honors classes are kept small in order to foster student involvement and classroom discussion. Each semester Honors students may choose to take any combination of Honors classes, non-Honors classes, and classes in their major. Students should consult with their major and Honors College advisor each year to ensure they are meeting their degree requirements and requirements for active membership in the Honors College.

Honors courses will:

Assist students in building an intellectual framework that will prepare them for graduate study, a career, and a lifetime of learning;

Provide opportunities for students to explore ideas and make conceptual linkages across disciplinary boundaries;

Encourage students to explore concepts and values of community, including a cosmopolitan worldview;

Give students the opportunity to engage the best faculty in small classes that emphasize excellence in a supportive learning environment; and

Encourage faculty members to develop and try innovative approaches to course content and teaching.

Students beginning at UNT during or after the fall 2022 academic semester must earn a grade of an A or B in an Honors College class to earn Honors College credit. A lower grade in an Honors Class can still earn the student credit for meeting university and major requirements but would not provide the student credit towards an Honors College award. Students should speak with their major advisor regarding credit related to their University Core and major requirements.

Honors Contracts

An Honors Contract allows an Honors College student to earn Honors credit in a regular 3000/4000-level course by undertaking independent academic work under the supervision of a UNT faculty member. In order to earn Honors credit, a student must earn an A or B in the course and the contract project must be submitted on time and evaluated as worthy of Honors credit by the course instructor and the Honors College. Contract projects may take many forms but all must include a written component and must be an additional assignment that is not required of non-Honors students completing the course. Specific guidelines and forms for Honors Contracts are posted on the Honors College website: honors.unt.edu.

A student may complete a maximum of 3 contracts for a total of 9 Honors credits.

Study Abroad

The Honors College sponsors one Study Abroad course each summer, including courses to London, Italy, and France/Belgium. Students analyze a variety of topics focused on those regions while absorbing local culture and ways of living. The Honors College strongly encourages students to study abroad during their undergraduate career.

A student may earn up to 6 Honors credits for a semester-long study abroad experience and up to 3 Honors credits for a summer study abroad experience.

Graduate Level Courses

Students may earn Honors College credit for completing graduate level coursework as part of their undergraduate curriculum. Students may take up to 3 graduate level courses for a total of 9 hours of credit that can count towards any of the Honors College Awards. If a student is completing a Grad Track program, the graduate level classes must be taken as part of the undergraduate component of their degree in order to earn Honors College credit.

Practicums, Internships, and Student Teaching

Students may earn Honors College credit for completing internships, practicums, and student teaching experiences. To earn Honors College credit students must be enrolled in an experiential learning activity (ELA) course within their major academic

department, and be concurrently enrolled in HNRS 4200Z: Honors Experiential Learning seminar required (zero credit hour, P/NP component). Students may complete 2 experiential learning activities for a total of 6 hours of Honors College credit. These ELAs should be separate experiences that are independent of one another.

Mentored Undergraduate Research

Students may earn Honors credit by working with a faculty mentor to conduct research. A mentored research project requires independent work but the project may be designed and/or executed primarily by the supervising faculty member. For example, working as a research assistant on a faculty member's ongoing research project would be an appropriate mentored research project.

Students may complete 2 Mentored Research experiences for a total of 6 hours of Honors College credit.

Completing an Honors Thesis

An Honors thesis is an extended piece of independent student research. Completing a thesis is a multiple-semester process. Students develop thesis proposals in HNRS 3500 and then finish their theses under the guidance of faculty mentors in their major areas. Students earn 3 Honors credits for thesis work by enrolling in their department's section of Honors thesis 4951. Honors faculty members remain available to work with mentors and students as thesis committee members. Students defend their theses in front of their thesis committee and members of the Honors College staff.

D. Honors College Distinctions

Students meeting the criteria for Honors College Awards receive the Honors College medallion to wear at commencement and have the accomplishment noted on their UNT transcript. Students can work towards the following Honors College Awards:

Advanced Honors College Scholar Award

- Only available for transfer students
- No Honors transfer credit from other institutions
- 12 hours of Honors College credit required, three hours of which must include one of the following experiences:
 - 4951 Honors College Thesis or Department Equivalent
 - 3996 Mentored Research Experience
 - UNT Study Abroad
 - HNRS 4200Z: Experiential Learning Seminar for internship, practicum, or student teaching
 - HNRS 4000: Global Perspectives Capstone Course

Honors College Scholar Award

- Up to 9 hours of Honors transfer credit from other institutions
- 18 hours of Honors College credit required

Distinguished Honors College Scholar Award

- Up to 9 hours of Honors transfer credit from other institutions
- 21 hours of Honors College credit required, 3 hours of which must be the completion of 4951 Honors College Thesis or Department Equivalent.

For all awards, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25. While Honors College membership status is based on the UNT cumulative GPA, Honors College awards and transcript designation take into consideration all college work a student has attempted. Therefore, work at another university may affect the award conferred by the Honors College.

The Honors Engagement Awards

3>2>1 Model (Effective fall 2020 onward)

Students who joined the Honors College in the fall of 2020 or later can earn the Honors College Community Engagement Recognition by attending 3 Honors College events, 2 community service opportunities, and 1 campus event each semester.

Eligible events are advertised in weekly listserv notifications sent to all Honors College students' UNT email accounts, and on the Honors College Canvas Calendar. Events will also be advertised on the Honors College social media (@unt_honors and @unt_hcpc on Instagram)

More information about the program and reporting requirements will be on the Honors College Canvas page.

Receive credit by emailing honorscommunity@unt.edu within a month of the event with the following items: Name; UNT email (if not already emailing from this); event name, hosting organization, and date; and a picture for proof of attendance.

100-Hour Model (for students that joined the Honors College prior to fall 2020)

Students who joined the Honors College before the fall of 2020 can earn the Community Engagement Recognition by tracking 100 hours of engagement events.

More information about the program and reporting requirements will be on the Honors College Canvas page. Students are able to change to the 3>2>1 model under the discretion of Honors College Assistant Director of Student Life.

E. Advising Information

The Honors College has dedicated academic advisors for Honors College students. Students can schedule an advising appointment with any UNT advisor at <https://appointments.unt.edu>.

Honors students should see an Honors College academic advisor:

- To formulate a Plan of Study to achieve the level of designation to which the student aspires;
- To discuss Honors College class options for priority registration;
- For assistance in getting into Honors College classes and changing one's schedule;
- To discuss Honors College academic progress;
- To seek Honors College academic clarifications;
- For answers to questions about the Honors College.

Honors students should see a major advisor:

- For overload approval.
- For Advising codes
- For questions regarding non-Honors classes.
- For Pass/No Pass options for non-Honors classes.
- For major graduation checks.
- To discuss major/minor academic progress.

Transfer Credit Policies

Honors transfer hours count only when the course grade is B or better and the hours are earned in a program or college that holds membership in the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Once admitted to the Honors College, a student may not take Honors courses at another institution to transfer back to UNT's Honors College.

Honors transfer hours can only apply towards the Honors College Scholar and Distinguished Honors College Scholar Awards. All hours for the Advanced Honors College Scholar Award must be earned in residence at UNT.

Course Duplication Policy

Any Honors course duplications must be approved by an Honors College academic advisor. Honors courses must be duplicated by the exact Honors course. It is not possible to duplicate an Honors course with a non-Honors course equivalent.

Scholarships

Some Honors College scholarships require that Honors classes be taken each semester. Students are responsible for being aware of and meeting the requirements of the scholarships they hold. The Honors College cannot alter scholarship requirements. Students are expected to adhere to the requirements of their scholarships and take Honors courses as stipulated. A full listing of Honors Scholarships can be found on the Honors College Canvas page. To apply for Honors scholarships students need to complete the General Scholarship Application by the deadline posted on our website.

Graduation Information

Graduating Honors College members who earn an Honors Award will be invited to the Honors College Medallion Ceremony. Students should meet with an Honors College academic advisor prior to the semester they are graduating to ensure they are meeting all requirements.

Students should apply for graduation for their major program as well as the Honors College by the deadline set by the UNT Registrar's office for their specific graduating semester.

F. Special Honors College Opportunities

Honors Housing in Rawlins Hall and Honors Hall

Honors College members in good standing are eligible to live in Honors housing. Students in Honors housing enjoy a supportive academic community along with programs and social activities. Rawlins Hall and Honors Hall each host a faculty-in-residence (FIR) who lives in the residence hall. Faculty-in-residence host special events for students and are available to provide advice to students on topics ranging from course selection to how to approach a professor to discuss an issue important to the student.

Honors College Programming Council

The Honors College Programming Council (HCPC) works with the Assistant Director of Student Life to plan, coordinate, and conduct student activities exclusively for Honors College students. The HCPC strives to create co-curricular activities that enhance the academic goals of each student.

University Scholars Day

Each spring, the Honors College sponsors University Scholars Day. This event provides undergraduate students from across UNT an opportunity to present their research. University Scholars Day welcomes submissions from all undergraduates.

The North Texas Journal of Undergraduate Research

Honors students and their mentors are invited to submit journal length articles for review and possible publication in the Honors College's online undergraduate research journal, *The North Texas Journal of Undergraduate Research (NTJUR)*.