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# WSU HONORS PROGRAM

Get involved. Get informed. Get inspired. Get into HONORS.

Weber State University's Honors Program offers you small, challenging and creative courses, as well as opportunities for leadership and social interaction. An "Honors" designation on your diploma makes you more attractive to employers and graduate schools.

## LOCATION

The Honors Center is located on the second floor of the Stewart Library, Room 225. The Honors Center offers a bank of computers and printers, study tables and couches, and a small kitchenette complete with a refrigerator, toaster, and microwave oven. Attached to the Honors Center is one classroom and one small conference room.

## HONORS STAFF

### **Dr. Judy Elsley, Director**

Dr. Elsley is a professor in the Department of English. She earned her PhD from the University of Arizona and has taught at Weber State University since 1990.

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### **Marilyn Diamond, Honors Advisor**

Marilyn has worked at Weber State University since 1973. She graduated from Utah State University with a degree in education and from Weber State University with a degree in English. She has been the Honors Program advisor since 1999.

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## **BACHELOR'S DEGREE OPTIONS**

There are two Honors tracks for students earning bachelor's degrees: University and Departmental Honors. What's the difference?

### **UNIVERSITY HONORS**

University Honors requires 21 hours of Honors course work plus a three-credit hour Honors senior thesis/project. This is a good option if you're considering graduate school, as the senior thesis/project prepares you for the next step in your academic career. If you choose this track, you should begin your Honors work during your freshman year.

### **DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

The requirements for Departmental Honors vary depending on your major. Some departments are using the old requirements and have determined that students will take a certain number of major courses with an Honors component (see the Honors advisor for details). Other departments are using new requirements (see the Honors advisor or your Departmental Honors advisor for a copy of the flyer).

*You may participate in University Honors or Departmental Honors or both. Many students participate in both.*

### **GRADE REQUIREMENTS**

The grade point average for acceptance into the Honors Program is 3.5 for University Honors. Read the Departmental flyer available through the Honors Program Advisor or the Departmental Honors Advisors for specific information about a department's GPA requirement.

### **UNIVERSITY HONORS**

The Honors Program is designed to be easily integrated into your overall university curriculum and usually does not involve going beyond the minimum number of credit hours needed for graduation. In addition, many Honors credits count toward your general education requirements.

#### **Please note that you must:**

- Receive a grade of B or higher in Honors courses in order to receive credit toward completion of your Honors requirements;

- Take at least one, three-credit-hour Honors course each academic year. If you cannot take a three-credit-hour Honors course during the academic year, you must inform the Honors advisor and get approval. Otherwise, your status in Honors will become inactive;
- Enroll in a three-credit-hour Honors course each semester if you receive an Honors scholarship of any type (academic, book, or travel).

## UNIVERSITY HONORS CURRICULUM

There are four distinct academic components in University Honors, with a total of 21 hours of course work plus the Honors Senior Thesis/Project:

### 1. Honors General Education

One of the attractions of the Honors Program is the opportunity to satisfy ***general education requirements*** with Honors classes. You can enroll in additional Honors courses to help fill general education requirements. These courses often take a unique and creative approach to the subject matter. Check with the Honors Center for actual course name, professor, and course content.

Honors PS 1500: *Perspective in the Physical Sciences*

Honors LS 1510: *Perspectives in the Life Sciences*

Honors SS 1520: *Perspectives in the Social Sciences*

Honors CA 1530: *Perspectives in the Creative Arts*

Honors HU 1540: *Perspectives in the Humanities*

There are also Honors sections of *English 1010 and 2010, Freshman Composition*.

### 2. Honors Core: take three out of the four following courses for nine total credits

Honors 1110: *Introduction to Honors*

You will earn elective credit for this class.

Honors 2110: *Great Ideas of the West in the Classical and Medieval Era*

You will earn General Education HU *or* SS credit for this class.

Honors 2120 : *Great Ideas of the West in the Modern Era*

You will earn General Education HU *or* SS credit for this class.

Honors 2130: *Great Ideas of the East*

You will earn General Education HU *or* SS and Diversity credit for this class.

3. **Honors Colloquia (Honors 3900):**

Take 2 colloquia for a total of 6 credits.

These are discussion-based seminars. Topics change each semester.

4. **Senior Thesis/Project:**

You earn three credits for completing the senior project which is the culmination of your work and experiences in the Honors Program. If your department offers a senior thesis option, you may choose to complete your thesis/project through their course number instead of the Honors 4990 Senior Thesis/Project course. Follow the advice of the department chair as to whether you should register for the Honors project course or the department project course. You must complete one or the other.

If you choose the Honors Senior Thesis/Project you will:

- Collaborate with a faculty mentor;
- Choose a subject of interest and significance to you;
- Develop a project demonstrating critical thought, and clear written expression that demonstrate a command of your chosen academic discipline;
- Participate in the poster session prior to the Nye-Cortez Banquet held each spring;
- Present your project and its results orally to a panel of faculty and your invited guests.

Since this project is intended to be a major undertaking, you should adhere to a schedule that extends over three semesters, beginning in your junior year:

Semester 1:

Meet with the Honors Director to declare your intention to complete a senior project.

Semester 2:

Enroll in **Honors 4830: Directed Reading: Thesis/Project Research** to prepare for your project. You are strongly advised to take Honors 4830, but it is not required. (One credit)

Semester 3:

Enroll in **Honors 4990: Senior Thesis/Project** to do your project. (Three credits)

**Please note:** Some departments require a senior thesis to complete that particular major. Follow the advise of the department chair as to whether you should register for the Honors Project course or the department project course.

## **SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE FOR UNIVERSITY HONORS**

### **Freshman Year**

Honors 1110 Introduction to Honors

English 1010H and English 2010H Freshman Composition

A selection from:

- Honors PS 1500 (Perspectives in the Physical Sciences)
- Honors LS 1510 (Perspectives in the Life Sciences)
- Honors SS 1520 (Perspectives in the Social Sciences)
- Honors CA 1530 (Perspectives in the Creative Arts)
- Honors HU 1540 (Perspectives in the Humanities)

### **Sophomore Year**

Remaining General Education courses:

- Honors HU/SS 2110 (Great Ideas of the West in the Classical and Medieval Era)
- Honors HU/SS 2120 (Great Ideas of the West in the Modern Era)
- Honors HU/SS/DV 2130 (Great Ideas of the East)

### **Junior Year**

Honors 3900 Colloquia (2 courses required)

Colloquia courses are discussion-based seminars where students are encouraged to express ideas and opinions. Professors guide the discussions, but students are actively involved. Topics and professors change each semester.

### **Senior Year**

Honors 4830 Directed Readings: Thesis/Project Research

Honors 4990 Senior Thesis/Project

## **DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

Departmental Honors is changing. Some departments are using the old system where students complete an Honors component in a regular department course. These students receive an “H” next to that course on their transcript, indicating the course was completed with Honors credit. Other departments are using the new system and students should refer to the Departmental Honors flyer available through the Honors Center or from their Departmental Honors advisor within their chosen major.

## **OTHER HONORS OPTIONS**

In addition to University and Departmental Honors, you also have the following two Honors options:

### **GENERAL HONORS**

Earn your associate's degree with Honors by completing 12 semester hours of Honors General Education courses and maintaining an overall GPA of 3.3. The twelve hours of completed Honors general education coursework will be part of the 60 hours required by the university to receive an Associate's Degree.

### **BACHELOR OF INTEGRATED STUDIES WITH AN HONORS EMPHASIS**

Choose Honors as one of the three areas of emphasis required for the Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) program. If you are interested in the Honors/BIS option, please talk with both the director of the Honors Program and the coordinator of the BIS Program as early as possible in your academic career. You may also complete BIS with Departmental Honors.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Where is the Honors Program located?**

The Honors Center is located on the second floor of the Stewart Library, Room 225. The Center includes computers and a study area, a number of books that can be loaned to students, and a small kitchen where you can make light snacks and drinks. The Center is a place where you can work, relax, and meet other Honors students. Check us out!

### **Where can I get academic advising?**

Marilyn Diamond is the Honors Advisor. Her office is located in Stewart Library, Room 225, and she can be reached at 626-7336 or [mdiamond@weber.edu](mailto:mdiamond@weber.edu). Make an appointment with Marilyn for registration, General Education requirements, and Honors requirements.

### **Where is the Honors website?**

[weber.edu/honors](http://weber.edu/honors)

### **How do I join the Honors Program?**

First, you must be admitted to Weber State University. Then complete the application for the program online or at the Honors Center, Stewart Library, Room 225. After you've been accepted into the Honors Program you must meet with Marilyn Diamond for a brief orientation. Contact her at [mdiamond@weber.edu](mailto:mdiamond@weber.edu) or by phoning 801 626-7336.

### **Are scholarships available?**

Yes. You can apply for scholarships online at [weber.edu/honors](http://weber.edu/honors) or at the Honors Center. You must be a full-time student registered for at least 12 credits. If you receive an Honors scholarship, you must enroll in at least one three-hour Honors course per semester. The Honors Program has leadership, academic, book, and travel scholarships available to eligible students.

### **Are research grants and opportunities available?**

You are encouraged to take advantage of research opportunities available through the University's Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). OUR offers grants to fund the expenses for your project, as well as stipends to compensate you for your time. The office also sponsors an annual Undergraduate Research Symposium each spring where you can present your work in a public forum. For further details consult the Undergraduate Research website, <http://programs.weber.edu/research>

### **How can I become involved with other Honors students and participate in the Honors program?**

Honors students organize a number of social activities, speakers, and community service opportunities. Detailed information about each event is posted on the Honors Web site. Postcard reminders are also sent to all Honors students. We encourage you to take part in these fun and interesting events.

### **How can I stay in touch with the Honors Program?**

Make sure we have your current contact information (phone, e-mail and address), and we'll keep you informed about Honors events as well as send you regular copies of the Honors newsletter.

### **What leadership opportunities does Honors offer?**

The Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB) offers you great leadership opportunities. Apply in the spring. Each position comes with a partial tuition waiver. Here's a list and short description of HSAB positions:

**President** - Leads the HSAB committee and oversees many Honors activities.

**Secretary/Historian** - Takes minutes at HSAB meetings and updates the master calendar in the Honors Center.

**Partnership with Service** - Plans and implements at least one community service project per semester.

**Issues Forum** - In cooperation with the office of WSU Student Activities, plans and implements campus-wide speakers and panels.

**Food for Thought**- Organizes monthly Honors speakers and panels.

**Cultural/Social** - Plans one social activity each semester for Honors students.

**Marketing** - Assists all event chairs in advertising events.

### **Are there social events for Honors students and faculty?**

Each fall the Honors Program holds a Fall Kickoff Picnic. All Honors students are invited and are encouraged to bring a guest. The picnic gives students an opportunity to socialize with each other, meet WSU administrators and Honors faculty while enjoying a picnic style barbeque dinner.

At the conclusion of Fall Semester, graduating students are invited to attend the fall graduation banquet with their family. At this time, Honors graduates are recognized and awarded their commencement regalia.

Each spring the Honors Program holds the Nye/Cortez Banquet where the Honors Nye/Cortez Professor of the Year is announced as well as the Nye and Cortez Outstanding Students. During the banquet, Honors graduates are recognized and awarded their commencement regalia.

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2009 -2010

## Fall 2009

Aug. 24 (Mon)	First day of school (full semester and 1 <sup>st</sup> block)
Aug. 29 (Sat)	First day of Saturday only classes
Sept. 7 (Mon)	Labor Day Holiday
Sept. 14 (Mon)	Last day to cancel semester and 1 <sup>st</sup> block classes
Oct. 5 (Mon)	Last day to withdraw (W) from 1 <sup>st</sup> block classes
Oct. 15 (Thur)	Last day of 1 <sup>st</sup> block classes
Oct. 16 (Fri)	Fall break - no school
Oct. 19 (Mon)	First day of 2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes
Nov. 3 (Tues)	Last day to withdraw (W) from semester classes
Nov. 6 (Fri)	Last day to cancel 2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes
Nov. 26-27 (Th-F)	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 1 (Tues)	Last day to withdraw (W) from 2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes
Dec. 4 (Fri)	Last day of fall semester and 2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes
Dec. 5-10 (Sat. - Th)	Final Exams
Dec. 11 (Fri)	Commencement
Dec. 24, 25 (Thur-Fri)	Christmas Holiday

## Spring 2010

Nov. 9, '09 (Mon)	Spring semester registration begins
Jan. 1, (Fri ' 10)	New Year's Holiday
Jan. 4 (Mon)	First day of school (full semester and 1 <sup>st</sup> block)
Jan. 9 (Sat)	First day of Saturday only classes
Jan. 18 (Mon)	Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. 25 (Mon)	Last day to cancel semester and 1 <sup>st</sup> block classes

Feb. 15 (Mon)	President's Day Holiday
Feb. 16 (Tues)	Last day to withdraw (W) from 1 <sup>st</sup> block classes
Feb. 26 (Fri)	Last day of 1 <sup>st</sup> block classes
March 1 (Mon)	First day of 2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes
March 15-19 (M-F)	Spring Break (2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes are held during spring break)
March 19 (Fri)	Last day to cancel 2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes
March 23 (Tues)	Last day to withdraw (W) from semester classes
April 9 (Fri)	Last day to withdraw (W) from 2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes
April 17 (Sat)	Final Exams
April 19 (Mon)	Last day of spring semester and 2 <sup>nd</sup> block classes
April 20-22 (Tues -Th)	Final Exams
April 23 (Fri)	Commencement