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# WSU HONORS PROGRAM

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 transcript and diploma makes you more attractive to employers, graduate schools and professional programs (i.e. medical school, dental school, law school, etc.).

## LOCATION

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

[Jelsey@weber.edu](mailto:Jelsey@weber.edu)

(801) 626-6186

### **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.

[Mdiamond@weber.edu](mailto:Mdiamond@weber.edu)

(801) 626-7336

### **Leanna Riddle, Office Manager**

Leanna has been at Weber State University since 1984. She is currently pursuing a degree in English from WSU. She has been Office Manager since 1994.

[Lriddle@weber.edu](mailto:Lriddle@weber.edu)

(801) 626-7591

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.

There are several tracks to graduate from the WSU Honors Program.

- Students working toward their Associate Degree can fulfill the requirements for General Honors.
- Students working toward their Bachelor Degree may elect to complete University and/or Departmental Honors and/or the Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) with Honors as one of the areas of emphasis.
- Students can complete several designations if they desire (Talk with the Honors Advisor about the possibilities).

## ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

### GENERAL HONORS

The cumulative GPA requirement for acceptance into the Honors Program is 3.5. You **must** meet this requirement in order to graduate with General Honors.

You can earn your Associate's Degree with Honors by completing **12** credit hours of your General Education course work through Honors General Education classes. The **12** hours of completed Honors General Education course work helps fulfill the **60** hours required by the university to receive an Associate's Degree. **Honors class listings are located in the schedule under the heading "Honors."**

The following Honors courses satisfy **General Education requirements**. These courses often take a unique and creative approach to the subject matter. Check with the Honors Center, Library 225, or the Honors website [www.weber.edu/honors](http://www.weber.edu/honors) for the course name, professor, and course content:

- Honors PS 1500: *Perspective in the Physical Sciences* (3 credits)
- Honors LS 1510: *Perspectives in the Life Sciences* (3 credits)
- Honors SS 1520: *Perspectives in the Social Sciences* (3 credits)
- Honors CA 1530: *Perspectives in the Creative Arts* (3 credits)
- Honors HU 1540: *Perspectives in the Humanities* (3 credits)

- There are also Honors sections of *English 1010 and 2010, Freshman Composition* (3 credits each) **These are located under the “English” section of the class schedule.**

## BACHELOR’S DEGREE OPTIONS

The GPA requirement for a student in the Bachelor Degree program is 3.5, and a student **must** have earned a cumulative 3.5 GPA in order to graduate with the Honors Program designation.

There are three tracks for completing the Bachelor Degree with Honors. These are (1) University Honors, (2) Departmental Honors, and (3) Bachelor of Integrated Studies with Honors.

### UNIVERSITY HONORS

University Honors requires **21** credit hours of Honors course work plus a **3** credit hour Honors senior thesis/project for a total of **24** credit hours:

- **9** credit hours from the Honors core;
- **6** credit hours of Colloquia;
- **3** credit hours of Senior Thesis/Project;
- Remaining classes from Honors General Education offerings

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.

### HONORS CORE

Take **3** out of the following **4** courses for a total of **9** credit hours:

- 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 (*DV*) credit for this class.

In addition, students must complete **9** credits which include **2** Honors Colloquium courses and

the 3 hour Senior Thesis/Project.

- Honors 3900 (3 credits): Honors Colloquia. Take **2** colloquia for a total of **6** credits. These are discussion-based seminars. Topics change each semester.
- Honors 4990 (3 credits): Senior Thesis/Project.

### **University Honors Senior Thesis/Project**

You earn 3 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/project option, you may choose to complete it through your major department's course number instead of the Honors 4990 Senior Thesis/Project course number. Follow the advice of the department chair as to whether you should register for the Honors course number or the department course number. You **must** complete one or the other.

If you choose to complete the Honors Senior Thesis/Project through Honors 4990, you must:

- Meet with the Honors Director to discuss the thesis proposal (a one page description of your project) the semester before you begin work on your project/thesis.
  - You may register for a 1 hour Honors 4830 Directed Reading course to prepare for your project. You must have Director's approval to register for this course.
- Put together a 2-3 faculty mentor committee from your major department;
- Schedule your defense with your committee and at least 1 member of the Honors staff (we can meet in the Honors conference room) upon completion of your thesis/project;
- Submit to the Honors Office 2 bound copies complete with the "final reading approval" page after the committee has approved your project presentation;
- Participate in the poster session at the spring Nye/Cortez Banquet.

### **DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

The requirements for Departmental Honors vary depending on your individual major. This also

applies to the GPA requirement. To verify that your major has Departmental Honors available or the GPA required, check the WSU Catalog or phone the Honors Program Advisor at 801-626-7336.

### **Departmental Honors Senior Thesis/Project**

Some Departments require a Senior/Thesis Project. Students should follow the advice of the Department Chair or the Departmental Honors Advisor. Students completing a Senior Thesis/Project as part of their Departmental Honors requirement are encouraged to participate in the poster session prior to the Nye/Cortez Banquet in the spring.

If your department requires a Senior Thesis/Project you must:

- Include a member of the Honors staff at your Senior Thesis/Project defense.
- Submit one bound copy of your Thesis/Project complete with the “final reading approval” page to the Honors Center, Library 225. The “final reading approval” page is available in the Honors Center.

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

Choose Honors as one of the 3 areas of emphasis required for the Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) Program. If you are interested in the Honors/BIS option, please visit with both the Advisor 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. Your Capstone Project/Thesis will also count as your Honors Project/Thesis.

### **BOOK & TRAVEL HONORARIUM**

Through the generosity of private donors and the Office of the Provost, the Honors Program offers honorariums to qualified Honors' students. You may apply for these online at [weber.edu/honors](http://weber.edu/honors) or pick up a form in the Honors Center.

To be eligible for a Travel or Book Honorarium, students must:

- Be accepted into the Honor Program;
- Register for at least 12 credit hours (full time student);
- Complete any travel prior to graduating with bachelor's degree;
- Submit a 1 page report and a photo about the travel to the Honors Center following the travel experience.

If you have completed Honors requirements for graduation and are working on your Honors Senior Project, you are also eligible to apply for a honorarium.

In addition, General, University, and BIS students must also:

- Be enrolled in an Honors course at the time the honorarium application is submitted.

Departmental Honors Students must:

- Be accepted into the Departmental Honors Program at least one semester prior to applying for an honorarium;
- Show evidence of progress toward completion of Departmental Honors.

### **LEADERSHIP HONORARIUM**

The Honors Program offers Leadership Honorariums to members of the Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB). These honorariums can **only** be used toward WSU tuition.

Students must:

- Apply for a position on HSAB and be selected;
- Be a Utah resident;
- Register as a full-time student (12 credit hours);
- Participate in a position review at the end of fall semester in order for funds to be released for spring semester;

### **HONORS PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP**

A number of generous Honors Program tuition scholarships (Pathfinder Scholarships) are available to freshmen. For requirements and details, contact the Honors Advisor at [mdiamond@weber.edu](mailto:mdiamond@weber.edu).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How can I find more information about Honors?**

- Check out the website at: [weber.edu/honors](http://weber.edu/honors)
- Contact us through Facebook at Facebook.com/weberstate.honors and click “add as friend.”
- Text “honors” to 469-579-2390.
- Call the Honors Center at 801-626-7336.

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

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

### **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 Facebook, the Honors Website, and through our Text Messaging. Postcard reminders are also sent to all Honors students. We encourage you to take part in these 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 and updates.

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

The Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB) offers you great leadership opportunities. Applications are due each spring. Positions comes with a partial tuition waiver. Here’s a list and short description of the HSAB positions:

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

**Secretary** - Takes minutes at HSAB meetings and updates the master calendar and

bulletin board in the Honors Center.

**Partnership with Service** - Plans and implements community service projects.

**Issues Forum** - Plans and implements campus-wide speakers and panels in cooperation with the office of WSU Student Activities.

**Food for Thought**- Plans and implements lunch meetings in the Honors Center on a topic of current interest.

**Cultural/Social** - Plans social activities for Honors students.

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