



University Honors Program Handbook

2021-2022

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I. Introduction

Since 1981 the University Honors Program (which was called the Scholars Program until 1997) has provided highly motivated and academically accomplished students at Auburn University at Montgomery an opportunity to develop their intellectual interests and skills beyond the typical experience of college students. For more on the history, see

<https://www.aum.edu/academics/university-honors-program/history/>

A. Mission and Goals

The Honors Program at AUM is open to qualified undergraduate students in any major.

VISION:

The University Honors Program is the academic unit at Auburn University at Montgomery that

- engages highly motivated and high-achieving undergraduate students from every undergraduate major.
- innovates in curriculum design and development, particularly in interdisciplinary and experiential education.
- exemplifies teaching excellence from diverse fields and using a variety of methods.
- prepares students to thrive as contributing global citizens who strive to understand the perspectives of others.
- creates a community of faculty and students engaged in rigorous intellectual and service-learning experiences.
- graduates students who become engaged alumni with a life-long interest in and a personal connection to AUM.

MISSION: Since 1981, the mission of the University Honors Program has been to serve highly motivated students from all of Auburn Montgomery's academic colleges by facilitating their participation in a diverse community that will prepare them intellectually and socially for the challenges and responsibilities of global citizenship now and in their futures.

B. Core Values and Learning Outcomes

To accomplish our mission, the UHP enhances the college experience of Honors Program students by engaging them in the development and demonstration of our core values: **creative and critical thinking** and **teamwork and leadership** in a context of **global citizenship**.

The UHP values learning outcomes based on our core values were adapted from the Association of American Colleges and Universities VALUE rubrics (<https://www.aacu.org/value>).

- 1) Honors students will develop as **creative thinkers** who
 - combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original ways and
 - think, react, and work in an imaginative way characterized by a high degree of innovation, divergent thinking, and risk taking.
- 2) Honors students will develop **as critical thinkers** who demonstrate habits of mind characterized by the comprehensive and systematic exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

- 3) Honors students will develop as **global citizens** who continually
 - become more informed, open-minded, and responsible people who are attentive to diversity across the spectrum of differences;
 - seek to understand how their actions affect both local and global communities; and
 - address the world's most pressing and enduring issues collaboratively and equitably
- 4) Honors students will develop as highly effective **teammates and leaders** who excel in
 - the effort they put into team tasks,
 - their manner of interacting with others on the team, and
 - the quantity and quality of contributions they make to the team.

C. Admission

1. First-Year Students

All entering freshmen may apply to participate in the UHP. Generally, Honors students at AUM meet the following criteria:

- 26 or higher on the ACT
- 3.5 or higher high school GPA

The application process includes review of

- academic accomplishment (e.g., GPA, ACT)
- essays in response to prompts, and
- an interview that may include UHP students and AUM faculty or staff.¹

2. Transfer or Current AUM Students

Students who have earned a college GPA of at least 3.4 may apply for admission to the UHP. These students will submit an essay (reviewed and rated by faculty) and participate in an interview conducted by a group of current UHP students, faculty, or staff.

Transfer and continuing AUM applicants must have at least four semesters remaining at AUM at the time of their application to ensure they experience the benefits of the University Honors Program.

II. UHP Requirements of Participation

Members of the UHP are expected to represent AUM, the University Honors Program, and the AUM Honors Assembly in an exemplary manner.

Benefits of the University Honors Program include the privilege of access to the Honors Lounge, priority registration, belonging to a diverse community of academically motivated and accomplished students, opportunities for domestic and international travel, and participation in a variety of service and social events. Honors students are given the responsibility of maintaining the Honors Study Lounge with a sense of pride and ownership.

To remain in good standing with the UHP, students must make reasonable progress towards University or Warhawk Honors, maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4, complete twelve hours of service activities each semester, and participate in the activities of the Honors Assembly. Of the twelve service hours, at least eight should come from UHP and/or AUM projects unless permission is given by the Director to direct your service towards other specific goals.

Students who do not remain in good standing because of GPA, service, or participation requirements are given a semester of probation during which they may return to good standing. During probationary semesters, students must take at least one Honors course (or complete a course contract) and participate in UHP and service activities, but are not eligible for travel or other support from the UHP.

Students who fail to return to good standing after a probationary semester will be dismissed from the UHP. They may apply for readmission to the UHP at a later date. Such applications will be considered by the Honors Committee, and the student will be notified by the UHP Director of the committee's decision.

Students must earn a grade of "B" or better in any HONR or course with an Honors contract to earn credit towards either Honors designation.

III. UHP Curriculum

Honors students have the privilege of greater flexibility than non-honors students in satisfying their AUM Core Curriculum requirements, so they are encouraged to meet with Honors advisors regularly and to communicate with their advisors in their majors. We encourage Honors students and their advisors to direct questions about Honors courses and how they count towards the AUM Core Curriculum to the Director or Program Coordinator of the University Honors Program.

Students may substitute Honors colloquia (HONR 1957) and seminars (HONR 1757, 1857, 2757, 3757) for courses that satisfy Area II or Area IV requirements in the AUM Core Curriculum.

Seminars

Honors students who enter as freshmen are expected to take HONR 1757 in the fall and HONR 1857 in the spring semester of their first year. These courses substitute for ENGL 1010 and 1020 respectively, satisfying Area I of the AUM Core Curriculum. Freshman Honors students who have already met this requirement when they enroll at AUM may use HONR 1757 and 1857 to satisfy Area II or Area IV requirements instead.

Seminars HONR 2757 and HONR 3757 are repeatable, that is they may be taken more than once for credit. The course content varies with each offering.

Colloquia

HONR 1957 is a one-hour, repeatable course graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S or U). Course topics differ each semester. Colloquia may be scheduled to meet once a week for 50 minutes, every other week for 100 minutes, or every third week for 150 minutes, depending on the schedule that works best for the course topic and activities planned.

Departmental Honors Courses

Departmental Honors courses (e.g., BIOL 1017, COMM 1017, PHIL 2007, etc.) may also be used to satisfy AUM Core Curriculum requirements, but do not fulfill Honors requirements.

Honors Contracts

Any student may use Honors course contracts to fulfill Honors course requirements with the approval of the Honors Director. For more information on Honors course contracts, see https://www.aum.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Honors_By_Contract-Guide.pdf

Typical Honors Schedule

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Freshmen (First-Year)	UNIV 1007 HONR 1757	HONR 1857
Sophomore	HONR 2757	HONR 2757
Junior	HONR 3757	HONR 3757
Senior	HONR 3957	HONR 4957

Three sections of HONR 1957 Honors Colloquium (1 hour) may be taken in any semesters that they fit the student's schedule.

A. University Honors

The highest honors conferred by the UHP are University Honors, earned by students who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher and complete the following curriculum with a grade of 'B' or better in each course:

	<i>Semester Hours</i>
HONR 1757.....	3
HONR 1857.....	3
HONR 1957 (taken three times).....	3
HONR 2757 (taken twice).....	6
HONR 3757 (taken twice).....	6
HONR 3957.....	3
HONR 4957.....	3
TOTAL	27

The designation "University Honors" is listed in the graduation program, on transcripts and on the diploma. At graduation, graduating student earning University Honors wear orange and white honors cords and a UHP medallion. "University Honors" is announced after their names are called and as they walk across the stage.

B. Warhawk Honors

Alternatively, UHP students may earn Warhawk Honors, in either of the following ways:

- (1) by completing 21 semester hours of Honors credit, of which at least 18 hours are Honors seminar courses (HONR 1757, HONR 2757, or HONR 3757)
- or
- (2) For professional majors with substantial junior and senior year internships or clinicals (e.g., nursing, speech pathology) only:
by completing 15 semester hours of Honors credit. No thesis required.

The designation “Warhawk Honors” is listed on the transcripts and diploma. At graduation, those Honors student earning Warhawk Honors wear orange and white honors cords.

IV. Honors Courses (HONR)

A. Honors Seminars

HONR 1757, HONR 1857, HONR 2757, and HONR 3757 are interdisciplinary courses that are the heart of the Honors curriculum. Seminars comprising the University Honors Program have the learning outcomes mentioned previously. Topics and assignments vary depending upon the professor(s) who teach them, but some texts and themes are consistently employed:

Year 1	Fall	HONR 1757 The Hero’s Journey	Challenges students to consider the idea of the heroic, especially as it pertains to their own lives, to their education, and to the time they will spend at AUM. Special emphasis is placed on the nature and value of education and the question “what does it mean to be an educated person?” Readings may include <i>How to Think</i> , <i>The Apology of Socrates</i> , <i>1984</i> , <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , and <i>Brave New World</i> . UNIV 1007 may also include discussions of some of those works.
	Spring	HONR 1857 Being Human	Uses a diverse set of readings from the humanities and sciences to encourage students to think through what it means to be a human being , in the broadest sense of the phrase. The anthology <i>Being Human</i> (edited by Leon Kass) is frequently used.
Year 2	Fall	HONR 2757 The Problem of Other People	This course often employs Plato’s famous treatise on the well-ordered society, <i>The Republic</i> . Issues to be discussed may include the nature of law, controversial social issues, or any other aspect of the challenges posed by our desire to live in society with our fellow human beings.
	Spring	HONR 2757 Seeing the Unseen	Much of what we believe, from the mundane to the cosmically significant, is based on considerations not immediately accessible by our senses: memories, the testimony of others, logical inferences, etc. This course asks students to consider the details, merits, and implications of some of these beliefs. Charles Darwin’s <i>On the Origin of Species</i> is a recommended text, as a whole or selected excerpts.
Year 3	Fall	HONR 3757 Research Seminar	The theme of this course, and the readings that are required, is determined entirely by the professors who teach the course (with approval from the Honors Committee). It must include a substantive applied research project , preferably with the opportunity for students to connect their research to their major field of study or to a substantial service project to be completed in the spring HONR 3757.
	Spring	HONR 3757 Challenging the Process	This course focuses on the nature of leadership and the cultivation of leadership skills, in whatever domain(s) the faculty teaching the course choose to emphasize. Students work in teams to design a proposal for a substantive service project , with the intention that one or more of the proposals will be implemented with the help of other Honors students.

B. Honors Colloquia: HONR 1957

The Honors colloquium is a one-credit hour course in which students are graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Topics and themes vary with each offering. Students are expected to take the colloquium course three times and are strongly encouraged to choose a diversity of emphases.

C. Honors Special Topics: HONR 1997, 2997, 3997, 4997

Honors faculty may occasionally design and teach special topics courses. These elective courses count toward graduation credit hour requirements and/or toward Honors credit hour requirements. Topics and themes vary with each offering.

D. Honors Research and Thesis: HONR 3957, 4957

In order to graduate with full University Honors, a student must complete and defend a senior thesis project. Frequently, students follow this sequence: enrolling in HONR 3957 in the spring of the junior year, HONR 4957 in the fall of the senior year, and HONR 1957 (thesis-writing colloquium) in the spring of the senior year. Throughout their college careers, students are encouraged to think about areas of interest within their majors and to get to know faculty in their majors so that they can identify a research mentor for the Honors thesis.

E. Honors Courses by Departments

Honors courses offered by various departments are designated by a four-digit number ending with a “7” for lecturer courses or “8” for labs. Currently, academic departments at AUM offer these Honors courses:

BIOL 1017/1018

BIOL 1027/1028

COMM 1017

ECON 2017

ECON 2027

HIST 1017

HIST 1027

PHIL 2017

SOCI 2007

F. Honors Courses by Contract

An Honors contract allows students in the University Honors Program to earn Honors credit in a non-honors course. Typically, students completing an Honors contract engage in a substantive project or presentation complementing the content of the course in which they are enrolled. These projects typically take about 15 hours or 1 hour per week of the semester. See the “Guide to Honors Contracts” (https://www.aum.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Honors_By_Contract-Guide.pdf).

V. Awards

A. Aya Zaied Honors Leadership and Service Award

This award honors the contributions of alumna Aya Zaied (2011) to AUM and the University Honors Program.

This award is given to students who demonstrate service to the program, the university, and to the community; who have demonstrated commitment to the ideals of excellence; and who have a documented record of leadership, particularly in the area of service to others. Aya Zaied Honors Leadership and Service Award winners are typically seniors.

An annual call for nominations will be sent to all members of the Honors Assembly. Those nominations will be reviewed by a committee including the Director, Program Coordinator, and members of the Executive Council of the Honors Assembly, excluding anyone nominated (or whose spouse or family member is nominated). That committee will consider the resumes of nominees and narrow the list to no more than five finalists before naming the recipient of the Aya Zaied Honors Leadership and Service Award.

Aya Zaied Leadership and Service Award Winners

2012	Ying Huo
2013	Alex Trott
2014	Sonni Gunnels
2015	<i>Not awarded</i>
2016	<i>Not awarded</i>
2017	<i>Not awarded</i>
2018	Allison Stewart
2019	Elizabeth Meads
2020	Allison Stewart
2021	Joanna Stewart

B. Donald G. Nobles Award for Academic Excellence

At the Fall Honors Convocation, all active Honors students are recognized who earned a 3.8 or higher in both fall and spring semester of the previous academic year.

C. Honors Program Travel Grants

The University Honors Program often has a modest amount of funds available to support university-sponsored student travel. Awards range from \$250 to \$2,000, depending upon the availability of funds and student need.

D. Honors Scholarship for Research or Creative Activity

Students who need assistance paying for travel costs associated with an academic conference, conference registration fees, materials required for research purposes, or other opportunities related to their major fields of study may apply for this scholarship. Award amounts vary in accordance with available funds and student need.

VI. Honors Assembly

The Honors Assembly is a student organization comprising all active participants in the UHP. (Associate membership is available to faculty, staff, and others as recognized by the student members.) The Honors Assembly was chartered in July 2011 and first elected officers in August of that year. At the Fall 2016 convocation, the Assembly Constitution was amended, and election of officers was moved from August to January.

See the Honors Assembly Constitution and Bylaws (<https://www.aum.edu/academics/university-honors-program/honors-assembly/>) for more information.

Year	President	Vice President	Secretary
2011-2012	Graydon Rust	Justin Dayvolt	Aya Zaied
2012-2013	Alex Trott	Kelhi DePace	Jordan Price (Jan.-Aug.) Caitlyn Williams (Aug.-Dec.)
2013-2014	Alex Trott	Sonni Gunnels	Kelhi DePace
2014-2015	Alex Trott	Sonni Gunnels	Kelhi DePace
2015-2016	Garrett Herring	Ameer Bedwan	Jake Sustarich
2016	Jake Sustarich	Ameer Bedwan	Rachel Pate
2017	Rachel Pate	Jasmine Boutdy	Safa Kazi
2018	Brennan Herring	Nick Ayers	Meaghan DePace
2019	Elizabeth Meads	John Forrest	Graeme DePace
2020	John Forrest	Hannah Taunton Mills	Dakota Mills J.P. Lemire
2021	Claire Culp	Alex Ennis	Diondus Williams Mary Kate Lackey

VII. Honors Committee and Faculty

A. Honors Committee

The University Honors Committee is a sub-committee of the Faculty Senate that consists of one faculty member from each College and the Library and the Director of the Honors Program. In addition, the Honors Committee includes the following ex-officio members: the Provost or designee, the Director of Composition, and the Chair of the Curriculum Committee. Honors students are represented by the officers (President, Vice President, and Secretaries) of the Honors Assembly.

By Faculty Senate resolution, the Director serves as Co-chair, and another Co-chair is selected by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee from among faculty membership on the Committee.

Name	Representing	Term Ends
Deanne Allegro	College of Education	2023
Chris Bang	College of Business	2021
Rickey Best	Library	2020
David Feltmate Co-chair	College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	2021
Pete Haddix	College of the Sciences	2021
Li Qian	College of Nursing & Health Sciences	2021
Lynn Stallings, Co-chair	Honors Program Director	NA
Ex-Officio, Non-voting		
Joy Clark	Office of the Provost	NA
Lilian Mina	Director of Composition	NA
Chelsea Ward	Curriculum Committee	2021

Jackie Hall	UHP Coordinator, <i>ex officio</i> , non-voting	NA
Student Representatives, Non-voting		
Claire Culp	President, Honors Assembly	2022
Alex Ennis	Vice President, Honors Assembly	2022
Mary Kate Lackey	Secretary, External Affairs, Honors Assembly	2022
Diondus Williams	Secretary, Internal Affairs, Honors Assembly	2022

B. Honors Faculty

Faculty are designated as Honors faculty for three-year terms beginning in the semester in which they teach an Honors course. These faculty members are encouraged to include the word 'Honors' in their titles for a three-year term, beginning in the semester in which you most recently taught an Honors course.

John Aho	Associate Professor of Biology	Summer 2022
Jeff Bates	Senior Lecturer of Economics	Fall 2022
Michael Baugh	Lecturer of First-Year Seminar	Spring 2024
Dana Bice	Adjunct Professor of Art History	Summer 2024
Elizabeth Burrows	Distinguished Senior Lecturer of English	Fall 2023
Joy Clark	Distinguished Professor of Economics	Summer 2022
Aaron Cobb	Associate Professor of Philosophy	Summer 2023
Lee Farrow	Distinguished Professor of History	Summer 2024
Angela Fowler	Lecturer of English	Fall 2022
Jason Gray	Lecturer of Philosophy	Summer 2022
Bridgette Harper	Professor of Psychology	Summer 2022
Darren Harris-Fain	Professor of English	Fall 2023
Jessica Hayes	Librarian	Summer 2024
Shannon Howard	Assistant Professor of English	Fall 2023
Nicholas Howard	Assistant Professor of Political Science	Summer 2024
David Hughes	Assistant Professor of Political Science	Fall 2023
Pia Knigge	Assistant Professor of Political Science	Spring 2024
Keith Krawczynski	Distinguished Professor of History	Summer 2024
Amy Locklear	Distinguished Senior Lecturer of English	Summer 2024
Samantha McNeilly	Librarian II	Summer 2024
Lilian Mina	Associate Professor of English	Fall 2022
Niall Nance-Carroll	Lecturer of English	Spring 2024
Lorina Schrauger	Adjunct Professor of Communications	Summer 2024
Lynn Stallings	Professor of Mathematics Education	Summer 2024
Michelle Taliaferro	Adjunct Professor of Biology	Summer 2024
Val Winkelman	Professor of Theatre	Summer 2023