

HONORS COLLEGE

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Administration

- Zofia Burr, Dean
- Jan Allbeck, Associate Dean
- Anthony Hoefer, Assistant Dean

The Honors College

The Honors College focuses attention on the excellence of Mason's student body and highlights the full spectrum of opportunities for academic achievement, professional development, and public service that Mason offers our most highly-motivated undergraduates. The Honors College provides talented students in all majors an enriched academic and social environment that enhances their college experience. Participation in challenging and innovative programs encourages student leadership and active engagement in local, national, and global communities.

Through the resources of the Honors College, the university provides students the support to excel academically and to pursue life-long goals. Included in these resources is the Honors College curriculum, which offers challenging courses that fulfill general education requirements. Senior faculty, including Mason's Robinson Professors, teach small classes of students taking the curriculum. A select group of entering students is invited to become part of the University Scholars, a community of learners and leaders who receive Mason's most competitive merit-based scholarships. All Honors College students have access to the Office of Fellowships, which provides advice and information to high-achieving Mason undergraduates and recent alumni about the application process for nationally competitive fellowships.

The benefits of being part of the Honors College include participating in a diverse living-learning community. Community programs include special lectures, events, and excursions on and off campus, as well as opportunities to take advantage of internships and cultural programs in Washington, D.C.

All students in the Honors College receive individualized academic advising, priority registration, and opportunities for close interaction with faculty for one-on-one mentoring and graduate and professional advising.

Faculty

Honors students have the opportunity to study with some of Mason's most accomplished teachers and scholars from disciplines across the university, including Mason's Robinson Professors.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Admission to the Honors College is based on a holistic review of each student's academic performance as well as any other information included in the general application, such as rigor of coursework, standardized test scores, class rank, essay response, teacher

recommendations, outstanding leadership, and commitment to community service. Space is limited in each class, and admissions criteria may vary according to the applicant pool in any given year.

Admission to the Honors College requires an application and is open to both incoming first-year and transfer students.

Policies

Continuation in Honors

A student whose GPA falls below 2.00 (1.80 in the first or second semester) will be placed on academic warning and may be ineligible to continue in the Honors College. Students are required to take and pass with a grade of "C" or higher either HNRS 110 Principles of Research and Inquiry or HNRS 302 Principles of Research and Inquiry for Transfer Students in their first semester in the Honors College to maintain their Honors College status.

Honors students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity and personal conduct. Students may be asked to withdraw from the program for a violation of the University Honor Code or any other conduct that reflects adversely on the Honors College.

Students who leave the Honors College before completion of the curriculum must meet Mason Core requirements and college-level requirements for their particular degree programs. On leaving the college and before registering for Mason Core courses, students should be advised on equivalencies between the honors courses they have completed and Mason Core requirements.

Transfer of Honors Credits

Because of the sequential and integrated nature of the program, honors courses may not correspond exactly to courses used to fulfill Mason Core requirements. A list of equivalencies is available in the Honors College office.

Requirements

Honors Curriculum

Starting in their first semesters on campus, Honors College students are challenged to identify, articulate, and evaluate multiple perspectives on questions of cultural, scientific, or global significance and to consider evidence that broadens their understanding and challenges their beliefs.

The Honors College inquiry-driven curriculum provides exceptionally motivated students with an alternative to the Mason Core. The Honors College curriculum allows students increased opportunities to pursue minors and other individual interests such as extended research. Students may also take honors sections of selected major courses as well as upper division courses offered by the Honors College. Beyond the Honors College requirements, students must satisfy all requirements of their college and major and Mason undergraduate program requirements for admissions, residency, credit hours, quality, and upper level credits.

Students who complete the Honors College curriculum will receive a designation of *Honors College Requirements Completed* on their transcripts.

Students must take a minimum of 12 credits of HNRS courses from the Honors College at Mason. Students must also complete the *Foundations; Inquiry in the Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; Civic Engagement; Multi-Disciplinary Challenges* requirements. Students must earn a grade of C or higher in the Honors College Foundations and Civic Engagement requirements.

Foundations

Introduction to Inquiry and Research: Honors students are introduced to methods for formulating, articulating, pursuing, and communicating research questions and the subsequent findings. **Students must take one of the following during their first semester as an Honors College student:**

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---------------------|--|---------|
| HNRS 110 & HNRS 111 | Principles of Research and Inquiry and Honors College Colloquium | 4 |
| or | | |
| HNRS 302 | Principles of Research and Inquiry for Transfer Students | 3 |

Inquiry in the Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences

Students will pursue answers to focused questions in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Specific topics will vary by semester and section. (12 credits)

| Code | Title | Credits |
|----------|---|---------|
| HNRS 122 | Reading the Arts (Topic Varies) | |
| HNRS 130 | Identity, Community, and Difference (Topics Vary) | |
| HNRS 131 | Contemporary Social Issues (Topic Varies) | |
| HNRS 240 | Reading the Past (Topic Varies) | |

Civic Engagement

Students will explore their roles and responsibilities in society and/or identify and address issues of public or community concern. Specific topics will vary by semester and section (3 credits).

| Code | Title | Credits |
|-------------|---|---------|
| HNRS 260 | Society and Community Engagement Topics (Topics Vary) | 3 |
| or HNRS 261 | Community Connection Practicum (Topics Vary) | |

Multi-Disciplinary Challenges

Students will address complex challenges through scholarly research (HNRS 360) or experiential learning (HNRS 361). Specific topics will vary by semester and section. (3 credits)

| Code | Title | Credits |
|-------------|---|---------|
| HNRS 360 | Multi-Disciplinary Topics (Topic Varies) | 3 |
| or HNRS 361 | Multi-Disciplinary Practicum (Topic Varies) | |

Honors College Electives

Students are encouraged to explore fields in more depth through approved departmental honors courses.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|----------|---|---------|
| BINF 490 | Independent Senior Research in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology | |

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| BIOL 213 | Cell Structure and Function (Honors section only) | |
| BIOL 214 | Biostatistics for Biology Majors (Honors section only) | |
| BIOL 308 | Foundations of Ecology and Evolution (Honors section only) | |
| BIOL 311 | General Genetics (Honors section only) | |
| BIOL 314 | Introduction to Research Design and Analysis | |
| BIOL 493 | Honors Research in Biology | |
| BUS 100 | Business and Society (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| BUS 200 | Global Environment of Business (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| CHEM 211 | General Chemistry I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| CHEM 212 | General Chemistry II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| CHEM 213 | General Chemistry Laboratory I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| CHEM 214 | General Chemistry Laboratory II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| CHEM 355 | Undergraduate Research | |
| CS 211 | Object-Oriented Programming (Honors section only) | |
| CS 390 | Research and Project Design Principles in Computing | |
| ECON 103 | Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| ENGR 107 | Introduction to Engineering (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| HHS 492 | RS: Internship in Clinical Research | |
| MATH 116 | Analytic Geometry and Calculus II (Honors) | |
| MATH 215 | Analytic Geometry and Calculus III (Honors) | |
| MATH 216 | Theory of Differential Equations | |
| PHYS 160 | University Physics I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| PHYS 260 | University Physics II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| STAT 250 | Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (Honors section only) | |
| STAT 350 | Introductory Statistics II (Honors section only) | |

UNIV 495 RS: Undergraduate Research Scholars
Program Seminar

Additional Requirements

- **Quantitative Reasoning:** The Honors College quantitative reasoning requirement mirrors the quantitative reasoning requirement of a student's college and major.
- **Science:** The Honors College science requirement mirrors the science requirement of a student's college and major.
- **Foreign Language:** Students pursuing BA degrees may have a foreign language requirement.
- Beyond the Honors College requirements, students must satisfy all requirements of their college and major and Mason undergraduate program requirements for admissions, residency, credit hours, quality, and upper-level credits.