

# UNIVERSITY HONORS

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## Administration

- Zofia Burr, 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 core academic requirements at Mason. 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 direct access to the Postgraduate Scholarships and Fellowships Office, 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 freshmen 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.

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 in their major program on equivalencies between the honors courses they have completed and Mason Core requirements.

### Transfer of Honors Credits

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

*Outside George Mason:* Course work in the Honors College curriculum may meet the general education requirements of other universities. As in all transfer situations, general education requirements of one institution may not precisely match those of another.

## Requirements

### Honors Curriculum

The honors curriculum is designed to satisfy Mason Core requirements through a small number of courses, allowing students increased opportunities to pursue minors or other individual interests. Students may also take honors sections of selected major courses as well as upper division courses offered by the Honors College.

Students who earn a minimum GPA of 3.00 in HNRS and HNRT courses and supporting courses required for their approved honors program will receive a designation of *Honors College Requirements Completed* on their transcripts. Students whose GPA falls below 3.00 may complete the program to satisfy Mason Core requirements but will not receive honors recognition on their transcripts.

Honors College students are required to develop a formal Plan of Study with their Honors College advisor during their first year in the Honors College. Students who do not complete a Plan of Study in their first year may be removed from the College and the benefits that it offers until an official Plan of Study is completed and approved by the student's Honors College advisor.

## Requirement One

HNRS 108 & HNRS 109 or HNRS 110 or HNRS 302	Introduction to Research Methods I and Introduction to Research Methods II Research Methods Research Methods II	3-6
HNRS 353	Technology in the Contemporary World (Topic Varies) (Mason Core)	3
Total Credits		6-9

## Requirement Two

### Honors Core Courses

Select three of the following:		9
HNRS 122	Reading the Arts (Topic Varies) (Art History/Arts)	
HNRS 131	Contemporary Society in Multiple Perspectives (Topic Varies) (Social Science with a Global Perspective)	
HNRS 240	Reading the Past (Topic Varies) (Western or World History)	
HNRS 130	Conceptions of Self (Topic Varies) (Philosophy/Religion)	
HNRS 230	Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Topic Varies) (Social Science with a Non-Western Perspective)	
Total Credits		9

**Students are required to take either** HNRS 230 Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Topic Varies) **or** HNRS 131 Contemporary Society in Multiple Perspectives (Topic Varies). Substitutions for both courses will only be allowed if a student transfers in credit for all the following Mason Core requirements:

- Non-Western Culture
- Global Understanding
- Social Science and Behavioral Science

**Honors students must satisfy all Mason Core requirements.** These requirements may be satisfied by HNRS 122 Reading the Arts (Topic Varies), HNRS 240 Reading the Past (Topic Varies), and HNRS 131 Contemporary Society in Multiple Perspectives (Topic Varies) or HNRS 230 Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Topic Varies), or by taking an approved Mason Core course. HNRS 130 Conceptions of Self (Topic Varies) and HNRS 230 Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Topic Varies) meet additional college requirements for the B.A. in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Science.

**Note:** Students who complete Requirements One and Two also fulfill Mason Core requirements for information technology, oral communication and literature.

## Requirement Three

Select any two courses of the following approved departmental honors courses: <sup>1</sup>		3-9
ACCT 204	Honors Survey of Accounting	
BIOL 213	Cell Structure and Function (Mason Core) (Honors section only)	
BIOL 214	Biostatistics for Biology Majors (Honors section only)	

BIOL 308	Foundations of Ecology and Evolution (Honors section only)
BIOL 310	Biodiversity (Honors section only)
BIOL 311	General Genetics (Honors section only)
BINF 490	Independent Senior Research in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
BIOL 314	Introduction to Research Design and Analysis
BIOL 493	Honors Research in Biology
BUS 100	Business and Society (Mason Core) (Honors section only)
BUS 200	Global Environment of Business (Mason Core) (Honors section only)
CHEM 211	General Chemistry I (Mason Core) (Honors section only)
CHEM 212	General Chemistry II (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) (Honors section only)
ENGR 107	Introduction to Engineering (Mason Core) (Honors section only)
HHS 492	RS: Internship in Clinical Research
HNRS 130	Conceptions of Self (Topic Varies) (Philosophy/Religion, if not taken to satisfy Requirement Two)
HNRS 230	Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Topic Varies) (Social Science with a Non-Western Perspective, if not taken to satisfy Requirement Two)
HNRS 312	RS: Research in the Public Sphere
HNRS 330	Research, Technology, and Online Community
HNRS 410	Thesis Proposal
HNRS 411	RS: Honors College Thesis
HNRS 430	Multidisciplinary Challenges in Professional Environments
MATH 116	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II (Honors)
MATH 215	Analytic Geometry and Calculus III (Honors)
MATH 216	Theory of Differential Equations
OM 211	Honors Statistical Analysis for Management
PHYS 160	University Physics I (Mason Core) (Honors section only)
PHYS 260	University Physics II (Mason Core) (Honors section only)

UNIV 495	RS: Undergraduate Research Scholars Program Seminar
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Total Credits	3-9
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<sup>1</sup> Students may substitute only one course taken before attending Mason for Requirement Three.

## Additional Requirements

- **Mathematics:** Each honors student must take one approved math course, depending on major. Approved math courses are MATH 113 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (Mason Core), MATH 123 Calculus with Algebra/Trigonometry, Part A and MATH 124 Calculus with Algebra/Trigonometry, Part B (Mason Core), HNRT 125 A Liberal Arts Approach to Calculus (Mason Core) or HNRT 225 Applied Calculus, or the honors section of MATH 111 Linear Mathematical Modeling (Mason Core), or MATH 108 Introductory Calculus with Business Applications (Mason Core). School of Business and Information Sciences and Technology majors may take any of these courses, except HNRT 125 A Liberal Arts Approach to Calculus (Mason Core). Additional math courses are required for some majors.
- **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.**