

IOWA

HONORS PROGRAM

WELCOME TO HONORS ORIENTATION

What is University Honors?

The University of Iowa Honors Program helps honors students to get the most out of their college experience by cultivating intellectual curiosity and practical skill through seminar-style coursework, creative engagement, and experiential learning. The Honors community provides support from accessible staff and knowledgeable peers to help students explore their interests and navigate the resources of the larger university. The **University Honors** curriculum (described below) reaches across all colleges on campus. Our students' commitment to rigorous intellectual study and active community involvement are recognized on transcripts and diplomas at graduation.

Students may also complete **honors in the major**, a capstone project with requirements overseen by individual departments. Completion is recognized as "honors in philosophy" or "honors in history," etc, at graduation.

University Honors Curriculum

HONORS COURSEWORK | 12 semester hours in your first four semesters

- Primetime—four days of workshops, activities, and more (1 semester hour)
- First-Year Seminars—Honors first-year students enroll in an honors first-year seminar (1 semester hour)
- Honors students take honors sections of general education coursework, electives, and/or honors courses within their department (3-4 semester hours each)
- Under special circumstances, honors students can also complete an honors contract—an independent project guided by a faculty member—to receive honors credit for standard, or non-honors, courses (usually 3-4 semester hours)

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING | 12 honors experiential credits by time of graduation

- Honors in the major (fulfills all 12 experiential credits)
- Mentored research with a UI professor (variable credit per semester, usually 1-4 per semester)
- Study abroad or internship with an honors reflection component (1-4 credits per semester)
- Other opportunities including Honors Writing Fellows, undergraduate teaching assistantships, and more

Honors Advising and Support

At Orientation

- **Day 1 Morning:** Honors large group overview and interest area groups—Honors Student Ambassadors meet with students in small groups to introduce the Honors Program and answer questions from students and parents
- **Day 1 Afternoon:** Honors ambassadors assist with course selection for Tippie Direct Admit and Engineering students
- **Day 2 Afternoon:** During the information fair, professional staff and student ambassadors are available for further conversations at the honors table on the landing outside the second-floor ballroom

While at Iowa

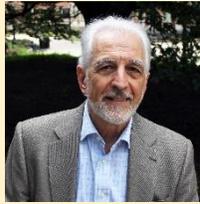
- **Peer Mentoring:** All incoming honors students meet with an Honors Peer Mentor to discuss academic progress, involvement, research, experiential learning, and general college advice.
- **Professional Staff Advising:** Our Advising Director and Experiential Learning Director have an open-door policy.
- **Scholar Development:** Expert support and tailored resources are available to students and alumni as they consider how specific scholarship and fellowship opportunities can support their larger intellectual, professional, and creative goals. Scholar development experiences are designed to challenge students to cultivate self-knowledge and self-authorship through personal exploration and practical experimentation.

Meet Us in Person

Art L. Spisak

Director

Dr. Spisak works at the campus, community, and national level to represent our program. He also works with alumni and friends who wish to support the program.



Emily Hill

Assistant Director

Emily works on enhancing and supporting educational experiences for honors students through curriculum, experiential learning, academic advising, and community development.



Holly Blosser-Yoder

Advising Director

Students meet with Holly for honors advising and to explore their academic possibilities. holly-yoder@uiowa.edu



Andy Willard

Experiential Learning Director

Students meet with Andy to discuss ideas for experiential learning opportunities. andrew-willard@uiowa.edu



Kelly Thornburg

Scholar Development Director

Kelly supports students in their pursuit of national and international scholarships and fellowships. For more information about her work or the opportunities she manages, go to honors.uiowa.edu/uiugfellowships.



Emily Johnson

Records and Enrollment Director

Emily develops and oversees honors application processes, documents and tracks completion of program requirements, and evaluates graduates for University Honors designation.



Heidi Schmitt

Program Coordinator

Heidi is responsible for supervising student-staff team members, outreach and marketing efforts, event planning, and the daily operation of the Honors Program office. heidi-schmitt@uiowa.edu



Camille Socarras

Scholarship Coordinator

Camille advises individuals and groups on best practices for scholarships application development, including essay writing, resume building, and asking for letters of recommendation.



Our Home: The Blank Honors Center (BHC)

The BHC is home to the Honors Program. The building's third floor is dedicated to our students, providing comfy lounges and common areas for studying and socializing and a computer lab with printing. The fourth floor is home to our administrative and advising offices, so be sure to stop by and say hello!



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Questions?

Email: honors-program@uiowa.edu

Front Desk: 420 BHC

Primetime Registration

Registration opens July 15 and closes July 22

Honors students will receive an email invitation when registration begins.



Honors Program
Make your connection