



Honors Program

University of Iowa
221 North Clinton St
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-0000
319-335-1681 | honors-program@uiowa.edu

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The University of Iowa Honors Program Statement on the Killing of George Floyd, Police Brutality, and Racism

The University of Iowa Honors Program joins others at the University in condemning the acts of violence and oppression perpetrated against Black people. Our hearts are broken over the police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, as well as that of Ahmaud Arbery and all those not at the forefront of the news. We also condemn the brutality of the police response to protests against these injustices, including here in Iowa City, and strongly support immediate action to reform the law enforcement and justice systems as first steps toward ending centuries of systemic racism, dehumanization, and violence against Black people in America.

At the local level, we support the call for the University to reassess its relationship with the Iowa City Police Department, Coralville Police Department, University Heights Police Department, and Iowa State Patrol. We recognize and commend the efforts of local protesters and organizers who are fighting to end racist policing and policies in our community and on our campus.

To our students who are fighting the battle against racism, we stand with you. We pledge to do more in our professional development and training to become more aware of the issues of racism and oppression. We pledge to address issues of racism and social inequity through our management, teaching, research, and service activities. More specifically, we will institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) professional development for our staff, the formation of an Honors student diversity council, and the inclusion of DEI focused programming. We will produce public annual reports of the Honors Program to remain accountable to students and community members.

Finally, we support the call for dignity, love, and respect for Black people and commit to fighting racism everywhere we have a voice. We believe white people should confront the truth of white privilege, supremacy, and fragility and, as a program, we are committed to outing and dismantling the racist and oppressive practices within our communities and of our society. We commit to doing our own personal work and are grateful for the opportunity to be held accountable in order to continually improve our community-building and advocacy practices.

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