

GE HONORS

HONORS PROGRAM
(GENERAL EDUCATION)

Program Description

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." – John Dewey

The General Education Honors Program is a course of study to provide academic challenges and enhanced learning for highly motivated students at Sacramento State. Honors students take most of these courses in their freshman and sophomore years. There is an additional nine-unit upper division Honors sequence that students take to earn an Honors certificate upon graduation. The Honors courses fulfill almost all Sacramento State General Education requirements.

The guiding principles of the Honors Programs are active learning, global subject matter, study of primary texts, and an interdisciplinary orientation. Specially selected faculty provide challenging and stimulating learning experiences in small class settings. The cornerstone experience of the freshmen and sophomore years is a three semester Honors seminar, in which students will read some of the great books of the civilizations of the world and discuss some of the issues raised by these authors.

Honors students have access to a lounge and central administrative office, where they can relax, study, meet with advisors, and talk with one another. The program is open to qualified entering freshmen; all others interested should contact the Honors Director.

For further information and application instructions, visit the Honors Web site at www.csus.edu/honorsprogram (<http://www.csus.edu/honorsprogram>).

Contact Information

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Requirements

Honors students take forty-five (45) units of Honors courses (36 lower division and 9 upper division). Exceptions are permitted with permission of the Director.

In their freshman and sophomore years, Honors students take approximately three Honors courses (9 units) per semester, filling out their schedules with other General Education courses or courses required in their pre-major. Honors students must take at least 12 units overall per semester.

The core of the curriculum will be a three-semester Honors seminar in which students read some of the great books of world civilizations, consider some of the big issues raised by world thinkers and writers, and improve their skills in critical thinking and writing:

HONR 1	First Year Seminar: Education, Self-Examination, and Living	3
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HONR 2	Great Books and World Civilization I	3
HONR 3	Great Books and World Civilization II	3

The Honors courses fulfill almost all Sacramento State General Education requirements for graduation. GE courses that students take in addition to their Honors courses are: ENGL 5, and a physical science course with lab. Students must also fulfill a university graduation requirement in foreign languages and the second semester English composition class.

Honors students are assigned a faculty advisor upon arrival at Sacramento State. They must consult with their advisors at least once a semester before registering for their courses.

The freshman and sophomore courses for the first Honors cohort are approximately as follows:

Honors Program Curriculum

Course	Title	Units
Freshman Year		
First Semester		
HIST 50H	Honors World Civilizations I: Beginnings to 1600	3
HONR 1	First Year Seminar: Education, Self-Examination and Living	3
MATH 15H	Honors Mathematical Reasoning	3
HIST 15H	Major Problems in U.S. History 1	3
		Units 12
Second Semester		
COMS 4H	Honors Public Speaking	3
EDUC 10H	Critical Thinking and the Educated Person: Honors	3
HIST 51H	Honors World Civilizations II: 1600 to Present	3
		Units 9
Sophomore Year		
Third Semester		
ANTH 2H	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology - Honors	3
ENVS 10H	Honors Environmental Science	3
GEOG 2H	Cultural Geography - Honors	3

HONR 2	Great Books and World Civilization I	3
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Fourth Semester		
ETHN 11H	Introduction to Ethnic Studies (Honors)	3
GOVT 1H	Honors Government	3
HONR 3	Great Books and World Civilization II	3
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	Units	9
Junior and Senior Years		
Honors students take three specially designed Honors courses to fulfill their upper division requirement in General Education:		
HONR 101	Science and the Public Good	3
HONR 102	The Public Good Through the Visual and Performing Arts	3
HONR 103	Civic Engagement Service Learning: Pursuing the Public Good	3
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	Units	9
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	Total Units	51

¹ May be completed in any semester in the program.

HONR 1. First Year Seminar: Education, Self-Examination, and Living. **3 Units**

Prerequisite(s): Open only to Honors students.
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Understanding Personal Development (E)
 Introduction to comparative ideas of education and self-development. In writings from around the world, examines works on education, autobiographical accounts, and short stories to explore concepts of teaching, learning, human growth and development, and the role of the school and university in the realization of human potential.

HONR 2. Great Books and World Civilization I. **3 Units**

Prerequisite(s): HONR 1 and instructor permission.
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Humanities (Area C2)
 Students read, discuss, and explore some of the most influential works of literature, philosophy, history, and religion from cultures around the world prior to the 15th century. Students will gain knowledge of different cultural traditions, explore ways to criticize and to learn from different genres of literature, examine their own concepts and ideas, and practice skills of critical thinking in dialogue with challenging works. Readings will be drawn from a broad array of sources, including Greek, Chinese, and Indian traditions, different religious faiths, and works of literature representing a variety of outlooks and views.

HONR 3. Great Books and World Civilization II. **3 Units**

Prerequisite(s): HONR 2 and instructor permission.
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Humanities (Area C2)
 Students read, discuss, and explore some of the most influential works of literature, philosophy, history, and religion from cultures around the world from the 15th century to the present. Students will gain knowledge of different cultural traditions, explore ways to criticize and to learn from different genres of literature, examine their own concepts and ideas, and practice skills of critical thinking in dialogue with challenging works. Readings will be drawn from a broad array of sources, including Greek, Chinese, and Indian traditions, different religious faiths, and works of literature representing a variety of outlooks and views.

HONR 101. Science and the Public Good. **3 Units**

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Further Studies in Area B (B5)
 This course examines how scientists employ information derived through the scientific method and statistical analyses to form conclusions. The methodology of science is applied to public policy debates relating to climate change, the use of DNA, Creationist/evolutionist issues, water conservation, land use zoning, energy, mineral resources, and other topics.

HONR 102. The Public Good Through the Visual and Performing Arts. **3 Units**

Prerequisite(s): Upper division status in Honors Program; GEAR certification before Fall 09; or WPJ score of 80+; or 3-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W; or 4-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X; or WPJ score 70 or 71 and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X.
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Writing Intensive Graduation Requirement (WI)
 This course explores the role of the visual and performing arts as a catalyzing and infinitely variable means of pursuing the public good. Students will engage with the artistic process as well as learn how works of art have successfully challenged ideological conventions and helped change social and political systems. Strategies of making art will be examined in the form of specific visual and performativity methodologies, the context of the artist, and the public perception of various art forms.

HONR 103. Civic Engagement, Service Learning: Pursuing the Public Good. 3 Units

Prerequisite(s): Must be admitted to Honors Program

Students to be an active participant in his/her own learning process through a service learning experience and participation in a corresponding seminar. Students are offered a reciprocal opportunity to acquire knowledge and develop skills while providing service and assistance to the community. Students will have the opportunity to assess the circumstances of an organization and provide feedback on their situation. The student will evaluate and assess his/her service learning from three perspectives: the physical universe and its life forms, social issues and social science research, and the arts.

Note: An international experience can be substituted for a local service learning experience. See Honors Program Director for more information.

HONR 120. Honors One World Seminar. 3 Units

Prerequisite(s): Open to students in the Honors program and permission of the program director.

Seminar dedicated to exploring the One World theme for the university. Topic changes annually.

HONR 195. Community Fieldwork and Internship. 3 Units

Prerequisite(s): Open to students in the Honors Program with permission of the program director and advanced approval of project goal and objective.

Supervised service-learning experience with a community partner. This experience focuses on application of the interdisciplinary approach of the General Education Honors Program while affording students direct, hands-on experiences.

Credit/No Credit

HONR 196. Honors Senior Thesis. 3 Units

Prerequisite(s): Open to students in the Honors program with permission of the program director.

Honors research seminar in which students will complete a research paper in the discipline of their choice based on original research. Recommended for the student's final semester of study.

HONR 199. Special Problems. 1 - 3 Units

Open to students enrolled in the General Education Honors Program. Individual projects and directed reading for students who are competent to assume independent work. Requires approval of the Honors Program Director and Honors faculty member under whom the independent work is to be conducted.