WHAT IS THE HONORS PROGRAM?

It is for students who love to learn, work closely with their teachers, design their own coursework, engage in extra-curricular experiences, and forge close friendships with similar-minded students. Maybe the Honors Program is for you! We invite you to read more about it...

MISSION STATEMENT: The Honors Program at IU East provides an intellectually enriched curriculum for highly motivated students, allowing them to demonstrate academic excellence through Honors coursework, independent research, creative work, service-learning, and extra-curricular opportunities. The Honors Program creates a personally challenging curriculum as well as a close, mentally stimulating, and engaged community on campus. Its goal is to foster and create students who are:

- Culturally well-rounded
- Researchers
- Academic leaders
- Good citizens in the community and on campus

INTERESTED?

Please contact the Honors Director, Dr. Alisa Clapp-Itnyre at aclappit@iue.edu or iuehonor@iue.edu to talk about the program!
**Program Benefits**

**Faculty ties:** While in the program, students work more closely with faculty doing Honors course work. These relationships can help in future endeavors (letters of recommendation, etc.) and last a lifetime!

**Curriculum control:** Through H-options and a senior thesis, students can pursue scholarship that is personally meaningful, sculpting the college experience to their own interests and ambitions.

**Conference opportunities:** Students attend and present papers at the Mid-East Honors Association annual conference for unique presentation experience.

**Honors Club:** While in the program, students are also members of the Honors Club which coordinates fun, informal, and exciting events for students, their families, and their friends.

**Scholarships:** The Lingle Scholars Program recognizes incoming freshmen from Wayne County, while other Honors scholarships recognize the active participation of students already in the program.

**Honors Room:** Honors students have their own space on campus, Room 202A Springwood, where students can come to relax, study, or just “hang out” with each other.

**Recognition:** Completion of the program is reflected on the student’s transcript, recognition at a special awards ceremony, and at graduation.

**Career Opportunities:** Graduation from an Honors Program gives students added advantages to getting into graduate schools and acquiring good jobs.
WHO CAN APPLY? HOW?

All interested students in a baccalaureate program—either current or prospective—who are or will be on-campus students are eligible for the Honors Program. Students may also be nominated or invited to apply by faculty. Paramount is an excitement to learn, to pursue academic challenges, and take ownership of one’s education. In terms of GPA, we encourage a total GPA of 3.5 or higher; however, certainly GPA’s between 3.0 and 3.5, or even lower, will be seriously considered if the candidate shows intellectual curiosity and a desire to become active in the Honors Program. The only stipulation is that you have at least two academic years (4 semesters) remaining to give enough time for Honors work.

Interested students should complete an application found on our website at iue.edu/honors which the Honors Committee will review. It should include:

1) A completed application form

2) A transcript showing the student’s overall high school GPA for incoming students or an overall college GPA for currently enrolled or transfer students

3) A one- to two-page, single-spaced typed essay of intent, in which the student discusses how he or she plans to contribute to, and benefit from, the Honors Program. Please mention relevant educational experiences, college goals and career goals. This is the place to explain the circumstances contributing to a lower GPA and why you are still a good candidate for the Honors Program.

4) A letter of reference from a high school teacher or college instructor, preferably a full-time IU East instructor.

Special Opportunity

Anyone can take one Honors Option, with the permission of the instructor, in order to try out the Honors Program. If you receive a 3.0 (B) or better, you should apply to the Honors Program and use this course towards your requirements!
WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR THE PROGRAM?

There are academic requirements and extra-curricular requirements:

1. **Academic requirements (At least 21 credit hours)**
   - **H100, Freshman Honors Seminar (3 credits):** “Honors Students as Global Citizens.” This will be the only separate Honors class a student takes, preferably as he/she begins the program. A special topics course focused on some aspect of international cultures and diversity, it is normally taught by the Honors Director. Course goals are fostering critical thinking, research skills, service-learning opportunities, portfolio development, and other skills needed for success in the Honors Program. Because it also includes goals of the First-Year Seminar, it replaces the U101 (First-Year Seminar) for incoming Honors Students; a newly admitted returning IU East or transfer student must still take H100 but may appeal to the committee for reduced Honors work in H100 or credit for H-option work if transferring in Honors credit.

   - **15 credit hours of H-option courses:** An Honors student takes five of their courses as “H-option” (or at least 15 credits) which involve creating an exciting addition or alternative to class work as agreed upon by the student and instructor. Interested instructors may integrate this option into their courses or offer Honors-only sections; an Honors student may also request an H-option from an instructor. In both cases, members of the Honors Committee (Director and School representative) must read, comment upon, and ultimately approve the work.
A student should not take more than two H-options at a time. One stipulation the committee makes is that the course be taught by a full-time IU East faculty member. Further, only two H-options may be at the 100-level; thereafter integrate them into 200-level courses or higher: one must be at the 300-level.

You must enroll by the 1st week of classes and you may not switch back without registrar’s fees, so stay committed to completing it.

Here are some examples of popular H-option work; choose one of the following:
• an extended research opportunity to replace an existing assignment, or extending the paper 20% more.
• a small service-learning assignment applying course content in the community, usually 4-5 hours, minimum, of service.
• delivery of independent reading or research to the class in a creative way, possibly a 10-15 minute presentation.
• independent research with a professor, such as in his/her science lab.

For grading, faculty might think in terms of 20% more points for the work. For example, use a 120% scale for honors students. It should not be perceived as “20% more work,” rather, an exciting alternative to coursework in which the students expand their normal classroom experience and even design their own learning.

Some separate Honors courses will occasionally be offered, and each can count in place of an H-option class. These include Honors H140, Honors Freshman Writing (replaces English W131); and Honors H200, Research Seminar (forthcoming, by a faculty member about his/her research to mentor students in similar disciplines). Others will be added—faculty are encouraged to volunteer to teach these!
H499, Honors Senior Thesis/Project (3-6 credits): Though students work on their honors project for several semesters with a faculty mentor, they must enroll in H499 by the semester before they graduate to complete the project and receive a grade from their mentor. This faculty mentor must be in a full-time tenured, tenure-track, clinical, or lecturer position at IU East. The project and mentor must be approved by the Director or Committee at least by the time of enrolling in H499 and it should involve one of the following research, creative, or service-learning options. It may, but does not have to, relate to the student’s major; instead, it should be a project that will excite the student and give him/her great pride to finish! It will be represented, through a final written or visual document, drafts and a grade sheet, in the student’s portfolio.

a. Independent Research Project: Using extensive research, writing 20 pages or more, as worked out by the student, mentor, and Director.

b. Creative Project: Writing a novel, book of poetry, or a play; performing a musical concert or creating an art exhibition; or creating a travelogue of photographs and commentary to present in public setting. All options should include a written explanation of the process and any relevant research.

c. Service Learning Project: Working with a community organization in leading or creating an important program related to the student’s major or simply of interest to the student. The mentor and student should use the Service Learning office on campus. 30 hours of service, minimum, and 10+ pages of detailed reflection, are required.

d. Submission and Delivery of a Professional Presentation: Creating a conference paper, creative/art project, or poster-board presentation, then submit and present at an Honors-committee approved professional conference in the student’s field with mentor oversight.

e. Job Shadowing/Research: Job-shadowing a professional in one’s field for 20+ hours, then writing a 10+ page researched-paper which relates the job-shadowing experience to current research on the topic.

f. Great Books Project: Creating a list of books that have been and are most influential in a given field, then reading as many as the student and mentor determine upon. The end product should be a thoroughly annotated bibliography (or possibly a paper).
Extra-curricular Requirements

• Cultural Requirements: To become culturally well-rounded and good citizens in the community and on campus, Honors students are required to attend five extra-curricular cultural activities as offered on the IU East campus or by an IU East organization during their time in the Honors Program. Activities might include IU East’s Mindful Explorations, trips with campus clubs (Humanities, History, Drama) to theatre productions, professional symphonies, art galleries, and so on. The Honors Club will be organizing some of these events and students are encouraged to join the Club! Shortly after the event the student should write a short but formal essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced), reflecting on his/her deepening awareness and appreciation of the cultural work presented.

• Involvement in the Honors Program: To encourage students to become good citizens and leaders within the program, all Honors students are required to help organize and/or attend at least ONE Honors event per semester: Chew and Chats*, Honors Club events, or ceremonies in which the student is not being personally recognized.

* “Chew and Chats” are monthly forums sponsored by the Honors Program to facilitate discussion about service-learning, research projects, and other topics of interest to Honors and campus students; and to meet faculty relevant to Honors Students’ work. We invite student and faculty input and participation! Food is always provided, too!

Keep up-to-date about all Honors events and requirements on the Honors Canvas site and our quarterly newsletters.
3 Required Interviews

• An initial interview at the end of a student’s first semester in the Honors program to plan his/her Honors work, usually with the committee member in the student’s relevant School.
• An exit interview upon completing the program.
• The Honors Director will also have annual advising appointments with all students so he/she can help you plan your Honors schedule. So use him/her to help you through the program!

The August Welcome Back is required of all Honors students: it enables you to re-connect with Honors students and learn about any changes to the program. In emergency cases and with approval of the Director, you may miss and are then required to complete TWO participation events in the fall semester.

4 Submission of a final portfolio

The portfolio binder or E-portfolio should be submitted two months prior to the candidate’s anticipated graduation. The student should follow the most current Portfolio Rubric on Canvas. It will then be reviewed by members of the Committee and Director to verify successful inclusion of the following:
• a reflective essay: This should provide both an introduction to the portfolio and a reflection of the student’s entire Honors experience, using the four goals of the program (see p. 2), 4-6 pages double-spaced.
• the student’s unofficial transcript with Honors work highlighted.
• the Senior Checklist (off of Canvas)
• all Honors-option work, introduced and explained, with instructor Evaluation Forms included for each
• the Honors Thesis/Project, with drafts, introduced and explained. Mentor’s H499 Evaluation Form is required.
• a 1-2 page double-spaced essay for each of the five required Culture activities done during the student’s time in the Honors Program. Pictures and/or programs are welcome.

Grades

A student must receive a 3.0 GPA or better in H100, on all H-option work and in all H-option courses, and in H499, for the work to count towards the Honors Program. A student must also maintain a 3.5 overall GPA to stay in the Honors Program (one-semester probations and appeals may be granted). In order to graduate with an Honors diploma, a student must achieve an overall GPA of 3.5 or better; if lower, the student may appeal to the Honors Committee.
HOW AM I RECOGNIZED?

Honors Students are recognized formally twice throughout the year:
1) Fall Induction Ceremony to induct new Honors Students into the program.

2) Spring Honors Recognition Ceremony to honor graduates. This also includes a Pinning Ceremony for those who have completed H100 and 3 H-option courses. At the all-campus Honors Convocation, graduates earn a bronze medallion which they wear at Graduation. Graduates are also recognized when receiving their diploma at Graduation.

3) Additionally, Honors Scholarships honor student success annually. The Helen Lees Award recognizes the top Honors student in terms of the GPA and participation, while the Joanne Passet Research Award recognizes the best researcher.

4) The Honors Program also gives three Honors Program Senior Thesis Awards in Research, Creative Work, and Service-Learning, and two H100 Research Project Awards annually.
WHO LEADS THE PROGRAM?

The Program works under the Executive Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs who has ultimate oversight in selecting the director among interested candidates, and in recruiting faculty members for the committee who may volunteer or be recruited by the Committee.

The Honors Director has direct oversight of the entire program, including recruitment, external relations, admissions, and policy. The Director also oversees the Honors Club and runs Committee meetings. This is a three-year, renewable appointment, with a one-course/semester reduction.

The Honors Committee works closely with the Director. The Honors Program Committee is comprised of faculty representatives from each School and a student representative. This body reviews program policies, admits applicants to the program, approves course proposals for new Honors courses, and assesses final projects for graduating seniors. The Honors Club has a faculty advisor, usually a faculty already on the Honors Committee. The Honors Committee plays a vital role in the success of the Honors Program, attending events and welcoming students in their school, and all interested faculty are encouraged to participate.
CHECK-LIST FOR FACULTY:

For teaching H-options:
1) Submit a proposal to the Honors Committee the semester before the class in which the H-option would be offered. Submission forms are found at our website: iue.edu/honors.

2) Make sure all students who elect to take the class as an H-Option have been switched to the honors section of that class by the end of the first week of classes to avoid fees. For this reason, they cannot switch back to the regular session.

3) Fill out the H-Option form for the student (also available on the program website) and electronically send to the student for feedback. This must be filled out after the completion of the course.

For mentoring Honors Senior theses:
1) Students will come to you based on your academic specialty and willingness to work with them. They can begin the project whenever you both are ready; it may be a 1-2 year project.

2) Meet to set up the guidelines and perimeters of the project. See this handbook for suggested page length or hours spent.

3) Students will enroll in H-499 as an independent study with you the semester they are to complete the project; this must be at least the semester *before* they graduate. Notify the Honors director of your intention and with the final grade: he/she is the instructor of record for the course.
STUDENT LEADERS:
Honors students contribute to the program in many ways: one sits on the Committee; four to six students comprise the Honors Club officers; Honors students are peer mentors for H100; and one to two Honors students are work-studies to the Director. Students are also vital to the assessment of the program, especially after their first semester and as they graduate when they fill out surveys on their experience.

HONORS COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Alisa Clapp-Itnyre (Director)
Whitewater Hall 264, (765)-973-8531, or Honors Room 202A, (765) 973-8621, aclappit@iue.edu

Paula Baumann (Nursing)
Hayes Hall 209, (765) 973-8338, pkbaumann@iue.edu

Roger Crane (Business)
Hayes Hall 255D, (765)-973-8401, rbcrane@iue.edu

Lee Zhong (Business)
Hayes Hall 255V, (765)-973-8289, litzhong@iue.edu

Ron Itnyre (N.S.M.)
Whitewater Hall 284, (765) 973-8580, ritnyre@iue.edu

Stephanie Whitehead (H.S.S.)
Tom Raper Hall 362, 765-973-8507, snwhiteh@iue.edu

Daron Olson (H.S.S.)
Tom Raper Hall 254, (765) 973-8475, darolson@iue.edu

Joshua Tolbert (Education)
Tom Raper Hall 353, (765) 973-8462, jbtolber@iue.edu

Tanya Perkins (English)
Whitewater Hall 276, (765) 973-8317, talperk@iue.edu
Student Name_____________________________ Date admitted _________________
Student ID # ______________________________ Email address _________________
Major ____________________________________ Major Advisor _________________
Honors Program Student Mentor ___________________________________________

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Title of Honors Project & Faculty Member:

Cultural requirements:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Portfolio completed (date): _______________
INTERESTED?
Please contact the Honors Director, Dr. Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, at aclappit@iue.edu or iuehonor@iue.edu, to talk about the program!
CURRENT Students:
Keep up with Honors announcements on our Honors Canvas site!

INDIANA UNIVERSITY EAST
iue.edu/honors