

University Honors Frequently Asked Questions

Section 1: Admissions

How do I apply to the University Honors Program?

- Students are accepted into the University Honors Program by application only. Acceptance occurs prior to enrollment at FSU and is based on an evaluation of the student's entire academic record submitted to the University during the admission process. Students also may apply to the Honors Program at the end of their first semester (lateral admission) or as a transfer student from another university or college. More information on each of these modes of acceptance can be found on the [Admission to the University Honors Page](#).

As a prospective student, I would like to speak to someone in the Honors Program about my courses and have questions answered. What should I do?

- We are always happy to meet with prospective students and their families. To arrange a meeting with one of our Honors advisors, email honors@fsu.edu or call us at (850) 644-1841.
If you are planning a visit to FSU, we also suggest you contact the [Florida State University Visitor Center](#). Through the Visitor Center, you can take a van tour of the campus, go on a guided walking tour, or attend an admissions information session.

What are the requirements in order to apply to the University Honors Program?

- Applicants to the Honors Program will be evaluated based on a holistic approach including, but not limited to, grades and strength of curriculum, honors and awards, extracurricular achievements, unique individual talents, quality of responses to the short-answer questions, and ACT/SAT test scores.
The academic profile of the middle 50% of Honors Program applicants that were admitted in 2019 was: 4.20-4.60 weighted GPA; 32-34 ACT composite; 1440-1520 SAT total.

What are the important admission deadlines for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years?

- **November 24, 2020**
-Deadline to apply for Spring 2021 start date for Honors in the Major Program.
- **December 1, 2020**
-Deadline for application to FSU (and Honors via general application) for first year students to FSU.

-Deadline for lateral admission students (first year students, after first semester at FSU).

-Deadline for transfer students wishing to start in the Spring 2021 semester

- **April 1, 2021**

-Deadline for transfer students wishing to start in the Summer 2021 semester.

- **August 1, 2021**

-Deadline for transfer students wishing to start in the Fall 2021 semester.

When and how will I hear back if I have been accepted into the Honors Program?

- For students still in high school, honors decisions will be released at the same time as your admission into Florida State University. In other words, you will hear from us on **February 18, 2021**.

Students who apply via our lateral application will receive a decision from us shortly after grades post for the Fall 2020 semester. Our target is to release decisions no later than the close of business on December 18, 2020.

Transfer applicants will receive a decision one business day before drop/add of your first semester at Florida State University.

What is the Honors Experience Program?

- The HEP is an interdisciplinary, inquiry-based, and state-of-the-art curriculum supported by an extensive co-curricular program. HEP provides students with close mentorship by faculty, a strong sense of belonging and community, and the ability to integrate their intellectual and personal passions into their coursework. The HEP is designed to capitalize on and foster the hallmark characteristics of Honors students: creativity; the drive and capacity to engage in critical and analytical thinking; imagination and innovative thinking; openness and the ability to communicate effectively with others different than themselves (politically, demographically, socially, and major); a passion for learning, complexity and challenge; flexible thinking and ability to employ multiple perspectives in approaching issues; effective collaboration with others; and embracing and growing from ambiguity and novel challenges.

For a complete overview of the Honors Experience Program, please visit the [Honors Experience Program Overview](#) page.

How do I apply for the Honors Experience Program (HEP)?

- Students accepted into the Honors program, who indicated interest in the HEP on their Florida State University general application form, will be considered for acceptance into the Honors Experience Program (HEP), a pilot program launched in fall of 2018.

How do I become a Presidential Scholar?

- University Honors Program applicants will automatically be considered for candidacy for the Presidential Scholars program upon submission of their Honors application, embedded in the FSU general application. No separate application is required. Upon their acceptance into the Honors Program, students will be notified if selected for an interview for the Presidential Scholars Program. These finalists must attend the interview weekend; there are no exceptions. Students who are not invited for this opportunity can still join and fully engage with the University Honors Program.

For more information on the benefits of the Presidential Scholars Program, please visit <https://presidentialscholars.fsu.edu/scholarship-benefits>.

I am interested in the Honors Medical Scholars Program. How do I apply?

- Applicants who are accepted to the University Honors Program will be considered for the Honors Medical Scholars Program, if they completed an application to this program through the FSU general application process. More information can be found on our website on the [Honors Medical Scholars Program](#) page.

I am interested in the Honors Legal Scholars Program. How do I apply?

- In order to apply to this competitive program, students must either be admitted as freshmen to both Florida State University and the Honors Program OR be currently enrolled Honors students in good standing. There is a specific timeline that students must follow in order to apply.

Students Seeking Freshman Admission to the Honors Legal Scholars Program: Interested students must receive:

- First-time in college freshman admission to Florida State University AND
- An invitation to the University Honors Program

Both university admission and the Honors Program invitation must be achieved by specific dates. Applicants for freshman admission must apply for general university admission by **December 1, 2020** to receive timely notification of admission to the university and a timely invitation to the University Honors Program.

Students who qualify for an invitation to the Honors Program during the appropriate time frame will be provided with further information and access to the Honors Legal Scholars Program application.

More information can be found on our website on the [Honors Legal Scholars](#) page.

I did not get invited to participate in the Honors Program as an incoming freshman. Are there more opportunities to be a part of Honors?

- Yes. Students, who were not initially invited to the University Honors Program as first term freshman may choose to apply for consideration to participate as a:

- **Lateral Admission** – Applicant would apply during the fall term of the freshman year for consideration to start with Honors Program in the spring term. More information on lateral admission can be found on our [Admission to University Honors](#) webpage under the Lateral Admissions section.
- **Honors in the Major Student-** Students, who are not accepted into the University Honors Program, may still choose to write an undergraduate Honors in the Major thesis as part of their undergraduate academic experience.
Any FSU student officially admitted to their major who has at least a 3.20 GPA (both FSU and cumulative) and will have at least 60 completed credit hours by the start of their honors thesis are welcome to apply. Additional requirements are in place for specific majors, so be sure to consult your department's [Liaison](#) for more details.
For more information on Honors in the Major, please visit [Honors in the Major](#) on our website.

What is the Honors in the Major Program?

- FSU developed the Honors in the Major Program to encourage students to explore their major disciplines in greater depth by completing a research or creative project, and the program is open to all qualified FSU students ([see admission requirements here](#)). While many students conduct traditional research-, the program also supports the creative endeavors of students in majors such as Creative Writing, Dance, Film, Music, Studio Art, and Theatre.

Students earn Honors in the Major by completing a research thesis or creative project in your major area of study under the guidance of a faculty committee. You will work with this committee to select a topic, develop a prospectus, complete a written document based on your research or creative project, and defend your thesis orally before your committee. This process normally takes two to three semesters, during which you will register for six to nine hours of 4000-level thesis credit. Once you have completed and successfully defended your project, you will graduate "with honors" in your major, a distinction that is announced during commencement and designated on your official transcript (not your diploma).

For more information on Honors in the Major, please read the [Honors in the Major Handbook](#) and visit the [Honors in the Major](#) section of our website for more information.

How do I apply for the Honors in the Major Program?

- Students do not need to be part of the University Honors Program in order to start their honors thesis. In fact, any FSU student officially admitted to their major who has at least a 3.20 GPA (both FSU and cumulative) and will have at least 60 completed credit hours by the start of their honors thesis are welcome to apply. Additional requirements are in place for specific majors, so be sure to consult your department's [Liaison](#) for more details.
To learn all about applying to and preparing for the Honors in the Major Program, read the [Honors in the Major Handbook](#).
For more information on applying to the Honors in the Major Program, visit the [Honors in the Major](#) section of our website.

Section 2: Current Honors Students / Involvement

What are the courses offered within the Honors Program and on campus?

- Students can use the course search option on Student Central to identify courses that are offered as Honors for the upcoming semester. Visit our [Search for Honors Courses](#) page under the University Honors tab for instructions.

Additionally, Honors Experience students can find a list of upcoming HEP courses by visiting the [Fall 2020 Honors Experience Courses](#) pdf document under the Honors Experience Program tab.

How do I search for an Honors or Honors Experience courses?

- When searching for an Honors or Honors Experience course, while in the myFSU Portal:
 1. First, click on the Student Central (SC) icon.
 2. Next, click on the "My Classes" tile on the FSU Student Homepage.
 3. Click on the link "Class Search."
 4. Enter the Term and Student Group.
 - The Student Group for Honors courses is "HONR."
 - The Student Group for Honors Experience courses is "HEXP."
 5. Click the "Search" button at the bottom of the page to look for Honors and Honors Experience Courses.

For more information, visit the [Search for Courses](#) page found on the Honors Program website.

What are ways to get involved in Honors once accepted?

- Students are encouraged to participate in events hosted by the Honors Program and the Honors Student Association. There are many opportunities for social engagement, professional development, and leadership with Honors once

accepted into the Honors Program. In addition to the information sent to your student email from the Honors listserv, you can find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for timely updates!

How do I make an appointment to meet with an advisor?

- Once you are accepted into the Honors Program, you may schedule a meeting with an Honors advisor using Campus Connect. Instructions on how to do this are posted on our [Make an Honors Appointment](#) page under the About Us tab. Students are encouraged to meet with an advisor once per semester. If you are not yet a current student, please contact us via email at honors@fsu.edu to schedule an appointment.

Section 3: Graduation

As an Honors student, what do I need to do in order to graduate with Honors?

- Students who are considered to have finished the University Honors Program have the phrase "Completed Requirements of Liberal Studies Honors Program" noted on their transcripts and earn an honors medallion. To earn this designation, students must have a final 3.2 GPA upon graduation. Additionally, University Honors students are required to earn 18 Honors points by graduation. 13 of these points must be earned by successfully completing Honors courses. The additional 5 points may be earned through coursework or participation in accepted achievement opportunities. Students must earn at least 18 Honors points. Earning more than 18 points does not earn a student additional recognition. For step-by-step instructions on calculating your honors points, read [Tips for Calculating Honors Points](#).

Finally, students must apply for Honors completion recognition in the semester they intend to graduate. Read more about our retention and graduation requirements on the [Retention & Graduation Requirements](#) webpage under the University Honors tab.

How do I calculate my honors points for graduation?

- For step-by-step instructions on calculating your honors points, read [Tips for Calculating Honors Points](#).