

Honors Program FAQs

Q. What are the benefits of participating in the Honors Program?

A. The Honors Program offers academic, cultural, and community benefits. At the end of their academic career, they will graduate with University Honors and Distinction in their major, great features of an academic resume. Along the way, students will have the opportunity to take small, discussion-based courses of the honors sequence and to do in their field with faculty mentors. Honors students have special honors advising, priority registration, and Special Honors Funding to support their academic projects. Just as important, the Honors Program consists of a lively, diverse, and intellectually engaged community of students, whom they connect with in and out of the classroom. Honors students have the option of living on the honors floor, and are encouraged to participate in all sorts of social and cultural activities sponsored by the Honors Program, as well as the honors book group and the club, The Voltaire Society, both run by honors students.

Q. What are the requirements for the Honors Program?

A. Students in the Honors Program are required to take the honors sequence of courses and to pursue distinction in their major. The honors sequence involves coursework that meets about a third of your common curriculum requirements in the broad liberal arts. Other than Honors Writing spring of your first year, there is no particular series or schedule. You have choices each quarter for courses that interest you and fit in your schedule. Distinction is governed by the department and students work toward that requirement later on, once they are focusing on their major requirements. Distinction looks different across the different disciplines. Every distinction plan involve some kind of culminating project or thesis that is appropriate to that subject.

Q. Are honors requirements additional to those for regular students?

A. Honors courses meet requirements that all students have, but in smaller, discussion-based, honors-only classes. Honors courses are not meant to be harder or more competitive; instead, they must be proposed by faculty explaining how they include an honors experience. These might include work with primary sources, speakers, field trips. The classes are meant to be more engaging and interesting, not more work.

Q. Do honors requirements limit my ability to double major or study abroad or participate in a dual degree program?

A. Because the Honors Program is integrated in the rest of the university, with the same faculty and graduation requirements, students in the Honors Program can participate in all aspects of student life and all academic fields. Our students pursue all different majors, study abroad, and double major. They pursue dual degree programs and, are even able to graduate early so long as they plan carefully.

Q. Does AP/IB credit count for honors?

A. In most areas, students get credit toward the honors sequence of courses only for honors courses taken here at DU. The exception is credit that counts toward a major or minor lab-based science sequence and credit for the first writing course, WRIT 1122.

Q. Whom should I contact with questions about the Honors Program?

A. Director Keith Miller (keith.miller@du.edu) and Associate Director Shawn Alfrey (shawn.alfrey@du.edu) are happy to answer any questions you have regarding honors and the common

curriculum and can put you in touch with faculty in other departments. Each of us teaches in the program, advises students, and helps develop honors curriculum and programming.

Q. Can I be in the Honors Program and also be in PLP or an LLC?

A. Students in the Honors Program can major in any discipline and participate in all types of campus groups and activities. Many of our students are in PLP or one of the LLCs. Students in one of these programs will live with them, not on the Honors floor.

Q. Does it cost anything to participate in the Honors Program?

A. There is not cost associated with being in the Honors Program. All of our programming is free to our students.

Q. Are there scholarships associated with the Honors Program?

A. The Honors Program provides just one scholarship for an exemplary 3rd year student, and we have Special Honors Funding students can apply for to support academic projects.