

HONORS PROGRAM

FACULTY

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The Faculty: Honors Program faculty, selected from many disciplines and departments, are committed to fostering a diverse and challenging intellectual community for the university. These instructors engage with Honors-specific pedagogy to create and foster a community of scholars that work with a higher degree of intellectual independence.

Curriculum: Students typically enroll in one Honors course during each of their eight semesters at Susquehanna. Students must earn a grade of C- or better in all Honors Program courses. All Honors courses satisfy specific combinations of central Curriculum requirements. Only Honors students may register for Honors courses.

Students participating in the Honors Program must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.40 during each semester at Susquehanna. If a student earns any grade below a C- in any Honors-designated course, the student, at the discretion of the director, may be removed automatically from the Honors Program. The director of the program reviews students' GPAs at the end of each semester. If an Honors student's GPA falls below the 3.40 level, the student will receive a warning letter. After a second semester below a 3.40 level GPA, the student is dismissed from the program.

During the first year, students must successfully complete HONS-100 Thought, which focuses on ideas and their expression, and one of the following: HONS-200 Thought and Civilization, an interdisciplinary look at literature and cultures; HONS-210 Thought and The Arts, which focuses on Western aesthetics as seen in varied artistic forms; or HONS-230 Analytical Thought-Logic, a course that examines symbolic logic as the generative epistemology of the scientific method.

In their sophomore year, students must successfully complete either HONS-240 Thought and Social Diversity or HONS-250 Thought and the Natural Sciences, which offer cross-disciplinary approaches. Sophomore Honors students also must successfully complete HONS-260 and HONS 261, the Sophomore Colloquium, in which they engage with an interdisciplinary view of a chosen theme and write a reflection-portfolio.

As juniors, students must successfully complete eight semester hours from a series of HONS-301 seminars that foster interdisciplinary engagement. If the chosen course is part of the student's major, the student must submit an "honors-level contract" to the Honors Program Director describing, in consultation with the instructor, how the course assignments for the honors student differ from the other students' work. Since some HONS-301 seminars are occasionally offered as electives that do not fulfill Central Curriculum requirements, students need to check individual course descriptions for Central Curriculum categories and communicate with the Honors Program Director for any needed equivalency adjustment.

The Honors Program culminates in the Honors Research Project, an experiential learning project that applies an interdisciplinary frame to a topic chosen by the student. The research project must last for a minimum of two semesters (two courses, with a minimum of 1 SH each), and may be built around the student's capstone project. Students may register for HONS-450 after completion of the Sophomore Colloquium (HONS 260+HONS 261), and after the project proposal is officially accepted by the Honors Program Director, which requires securing an academic research mentor. The conclusion of the research project must include a public presentation, usually in a forum organized by the Honors Program.

HONORS COURSES AND THE CENTRAL CURRICULUM

The Honors Program aligns its courses with Central Curriculum requirements, however, Honors courses fulfill Honors Learning Goals that follow guidelines from the National Collegiate Honors Council. For Honors students, the manner in which Central Curriculum requirements are fulfilled may differ from the manner in which Central Curriculum requirements are defined in the course catalog. Honors students enrolling in Central Curriculum courses should consider whether or not to select Honors options to fulfill those requirements. A student who completes the requirements of the Honors Program also fulfills the interdisciplinary requirement of the Central Curriculum. Students with special concerns about their programs should seek additional advising from the Director and/or Associate Director of the Honors Program.

HONORS COURSES

HONS-100 Thought

A study of ideas, this course examines intellectual curiosity and critical thinking in both oral and written communication. In this seminar setting, students investigate the process of arriving at a thoughtful position, supported by appropriate evidence. Students learn how to do academic research, evaluate source material, and form hypotheses as well as how to share their questions and ideas with various audiences. Students will practice effective habits for succeeding in a new academic and social environment. 4 SH. CC: Writing and Thinking, Perspectives.

HONS-200 Thought and Civilization

An introduction to Western thought, this course emphasizes how humans resist or assimilate, oppose or renew tradition. Philosophical, historical, religious, and literary texts of various eras, movements, genres, and media are the object of examination and interpretation. 4 SH. CC: Literary Expression.

HONS-210 Thought and The Arts

An introduction to Western aesthetics, this course emphasizes how creative processes either align themselves with canonical traditions, or oppose and dismiss them. The course may focus on one form of artistic expression, or, unified by a thematic umbrella, on a combination of various forms of artistic expression. 4 SH. CC: Artistic Expression.

HONS-230 Analytical Thought: Logic

Logic was one of the original disciplines in the trivium, the tripartite foundation block of the liberal arts. This course addresses critical thinking within the time-honored frame of deductive argumentation using standard notations, principles, and methods used in modern symbolic logic. Logic is examined as the generative epistemology of the scientific method. 4SH. CC: Analytical Thought, Writing Intensive.

HONS-240 Thought and Social Diversity

An introduction to the social sciences in the context of issues of substantial concern to individuals and society, this course identifies specific social issues and explores them in their historical, psychological, political, and ethical contexts. Students study concepts and methods central to the social sciences, read primary sources in several disciplines, and learn in a highly participatory classroom environment. 4 SH. CC: Social Interactions, Diversity Intensive, Ethics Intensive, and Writing Intensive.

HONS-250 Thought and the Natural Sciences

This history and philosophy of science course focuses on science as a human activity. Through an examination of methods, explanations, limitations, and applications of science, students are given sufficient background to be able to recognize distinctive attributes of both actual science and pseudoscience. The course introduces students to the complexity of ethical, political, and social issues that are byproducts of science and technology. Experiments in biology, chemistry, geology, and physics are used to illustrate the nature and progress of science across time. 4 SH. CC: Interdisciplinary, Scientific Explanations, Writing Intensive.

HONS-260 + HONS-261 Sophomore Colloquium

This colloquium teaches students how to develop an interdisciplinary learning framework. Over the course of two semesters, students attend interdisciplinary lectures, workshops, and field trips. Before each activity, students receive preparatory materials to study ahead of the event, so as to guarantee optimal integration of content. Following each event, students produce critical reflections as assigned by the Colloquium coordinator. At the end of the year, students prepare a portfolio with their critical reflections on attended events, and an overview that demonstrates the interdisciplinary reach of their intellectual engagement. The two courses must be taken consecutively, but may be taken in different academic years. 1 SH, 2 semesters. CC: Interdisciplinary.

HONS-301 Honors Seminar

Each Honors student must complete a minimum of eight hours of 300-level upper-division Honors classes. These courses may be designed for a departmental major, but may also be open to Honors students from any major, perform very well in such challenging interdisciplinary environments. Several Honors seminars are offered each semester. If the chosen course is part of the student's major, the student must submit an "honors-level contract," describing, in consultation with the instructor, how the course assignments for the honors student differs from the other students' work. 4 SH.

HONS-450 Honors Research Project

The Honors program culminates in an experiential learning project to be completed in a minimum of two and a maximum of four semesters. This research project must address a topic not fully addressed by any specific course at SU. In case the topic relates to a course, a clear and detailed explanation is expected on how this honors project supersedes and transcends the classwork of other students in the respective course. If students choose a topic in their major, some degree of interdisciplinarity is nevertheless expected of their work. In the semester prior to the registration, students must submit a research proposal describing the duration and methodology of the project and the final deliverable product. The proposal must name an advisor from the faculty that has agreed to supervise the project. The project may be interrupted for study abroad, and may be prolonged, should the advisor deem an extension necessary for quality assurance. Once completed, the project is publicly presented in events organized by the Honors Program. Minimum of 2 SH. CC: Interdisciplinary. Capstone.