



Honors Program Student Handbook

NAU HONORS

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MISSION

The mission of the Honors Program at Northern Arizona University is to offer academically motivated individuals an enhanced education that includes a rigorous and diverse curriculum, close intellectual dialogue among student and faculty, and experiential learning opportunities within a community of committed scholars. The challenging nature of the program enhances students' awareness of themselves and their responsibilities as participants in the intellectual community of the university and as citizens of the world.

The program itself is a vital part of the university that advocates and models a commitment to higher levels of intellectual and academic achievement for all students and faculty of the institution.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

The educational objective of the Honors Program is to prepare students to be critical and innovative thinkers and citizens in the twenty-first century. The program is designed to ensure that most academically motivated students are challenged to achieve their greatest potential as individuals while preparing for their responsibilities to the community.

Upon graduation, Honors Program participants will have:

- ability to reflect critically on and integrate knowledge and issues within the broader societal and human context;
- recognition of their individual and collective responsibilities as citizens and leaders in the twenty-first century; and
- capacity to commit to a position, recognize that it may change, and tolerate uncertainty and ambiguity.

In addition, Honors Program graduates will demonstrate superior capabilities in essential lifelong skills, including the ability to read critically, express themselves effectively in speech and writing, reason ethically, engage in quantitative analysis, and utilize the logic of scientific inquiry. That is, the honors curriculum will prepare students to excel in a competitive world and to contribute to the improvement of that world.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

High School Senior

Admission to the Honors Program at NAU requires a separate application and completion of one of the following:

- ACT composite score of 29 or higher
- SAT combined score of 1290 or higher
- Graduation in the top five percent of your high school class

Additionally, you are required to demonstrate competency at university admission in the areas of English and mathematics as determined by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Admission by Exception

If you do not meet the admission criteria and believe yourself qualified to benefit from the Liberals Studies Honors Program, you may request admission by exception. Admission by exception requires you to submit the following supporting documents in addition of the Program Application:

- An unofficial high school transcript
- A letter of recommendation from someone familiar with your academic abilities (teacher, counselor, etc.)
- A brief (500 word) essay on why you want to be part of the Honors Program.

Admission by Exception requests will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Director of the Honors Program. You will be informed in writing of the admission decision.

Provisional Admission

Under certain circumstances a student admitted by exception may be granted vary and include, but are not limited to, specific grade point average, admission to the Honors Program on a provisional basis. You will be notified in writing of this status and the specific requirements need to achieve good standing. Provisional admission status is usually granted for the first semester of enrollment in the program. Provisions vary and include, but are not limited to, successful completion of a specific number of credit hours, or successful completion of a specific course or set of courses. Failing to meet the requirements of your admission will result in your being dropped from the Honors Program. You will be required to complete general education requirements through the University Liberal Studies curriculum.

Transfer Student

You may be admitted to the program if you are a transfer student with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better on at least 30 credit hours. Honors coursed taken at other accredited institutions may be transferred for honors credit in the Honors Liberal Studies curriculum, submit transcripts and catalog descriptions of such courses to the Honors Program office.

Current NAU Student

You may be admitted to the Honors Program with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better in at least 12 NAU credit hours.

ENROLLMENT IN HONORS COURSES

In addition to Honors Program participants, student in the following programs are eligible to enroll in Honors courses without being formally admitted to the Honors Program:

- Dorrance Scholars
- National Student Exchange (Student must provide documentation of Honors Program/College membership or have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at their home institution)
- International Student Exchange
- Current NAU student with a minimum GPA of 3.5 or better

Enrollment in Honors courses by non-Honors students will be allowed after the early registration period.

Students in these populations should work directly with Honors Program staff to obtain current and accurate course information.

LIBERAL STUDIES HONORS CURRICULUM

The Liberal Studies Honors curriculum provides an alternative path to completing the university's general education requirement, Liberal Studies. Students complete interesting and challenging coursework in a supportive, seminar-style format and actively engage in the learning process. Faculty share their passion for knowledge and ideas with honors students in intimate, intellectually-stimulating classes that bring together concepts, theories, and current research from a variety of disciplines and perspectives. Students are expected to demonstrate aptitudes in critical thinking, communication, ethical reasoning, and creative exploration of ideas. Students will work toward developing these skills further through full participation in the reading, writing, and research projects that are the focus of each honors course. Successfully completing the Liberal Studies Honors curriculum earns the designation "with Liberal Studies Honors" upon graduation.

Liberal Studies Honors

A minimum of 35 hours with at least 21 hours of Honors-designated coursework is required in the following categories:

Foundation Requirements (9-10 hours)

Honors Core* (6 hours):

HON 190	Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing I	3 hours
And		
HON 191	Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing II	3 hours

Mathematics (3-4 hours):

MAT 125	Precalculus	4 hours
OR		
MAT 131	Topics in Calculus	3 hours
OR		
MAT 136	Calculus I	4 hours

Foreign Language or Additional Mathematics:

First year proficiency (102 level) in a non-English language
Or
Math competency through Calculus II (MAT 137)

- To ensure that you meet the university English composition requirement, you must take the English composition placement exam during your first semester in the program and before completing HON 190. Failure to pass requires you to take ENG 205 concurrently with HON 191.

Distribution Requirements (25 hours minimum)

Aesthetic and Humanistic Inquiry	3-6 hours
Cultural Understanding	3-6 hours
Lab Science	4 hours
Science and Applied Science	3-6 hours
Social and Political Worlds	3-6 hours

University Honors

To receive the designation “with University Honors” on your diploma and transcript, you complete:

- the Liberal Studies Honors curriculum described in the previous section, and
- a 6-hour honors thesis, which involves a two-semester effort that meets Honors Program requirements. Some majors may require additional coursework in preparation for completing the honors thesis.

Honors Thesis

The honors thesis is an original undergraduate research experience or creative work conducted under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Completion of the research or project culminates in a thesis. Any student participating in the Honors Program may choose to complete an honors thesis to fulfill program requirements or to receive elective credit.

Students submit a written proposal to the Director of the Honors Program with a full description of the planned study. Registration in HON 490: Honors Thesis is allowed only after approval of a submitted proposal. Speak with an Honors advisor for guidelines and materials.

Departmental Honors

Some academic departments offer individually tailored honors programs for majors in their departments. You may be required to complete the Liberal Studies Honors curriculum, plus additional hours approved by the department of your major. Contact your major advisor to confirm that your department participates and to acquire additional information.

CREDIT BY EXAM

You may use the credit-by-exam option to gain credit for college courses in which you have already acquired proficiency. NAU recognizes two examination programs, Advanced Placement (AP) and the College Level Exam Program (CLEP) to award credit by exam. Credit earned for Liberal Studies approved courses will be applied to fulfill Liberal Studies Honors requirements as appropriate.

TRANSFER CREDIT

To meet the requirements of the Honors Program, you may be able to use transfer credit that you earned at another institution. The Registrar’s Office evaluates your transfer transcript to determine your total number of transfer hours and how those will count toward satisfying university liberal studies requirements. An academic advisor of the Honors Program will use this information to apply your previously completed coursework to fulfill Liberal Studies Honors Program requirements. Honors courses completed at another institution may be applied to fulfill the program requirement of 21 hours of honors designated coursework.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CREDIT

Honors students are encouraged to participate in international study abroad or exchange. The International Studies Office coordinates opportunities to study in other countries while earning direct NAU credit. With approval, a participant of the Honors Program may apply credit earned while studying abroad to fulfill Honors Program requirements. The value and quantity of coursework applied to program requirements is determined on an individual basis. For specific information refer to the Honors International Studies Guide an Honors advisor.

INDEPENDENTLY ARRANGED COURSEWORK

Because many program participants have achieved sufficient maturity to study subjects independently, you have the opportunity to fulfill Liberal Studies Honors curriculum requirements by completing independently arranged coursework. A maximum of three credit hours of independently arranged coursework can be used to fulfill program requirements. You may participate in any of the following courses to fulfill program requirements:

HON 408: Fieldwork Experience	1-12 credit hours
HON 466: Legislative Internship (Spring only)	1-12 credit hours
HON 475: Directed Readings	1-3 credit hours
HON 485: Undergraduate Research	1-6 credit hours
HON 490: Honors Thesis	3 credit hours
HON 497: Independent Study	1-6 credit hours

Enrollment in independently arranged courses requires submission of a formal course of study proposal. Proposals require an NAU faculty supervisor and the approval of the Honors Program Director. Speak with an Honors Advisor to obtain information and required materials.

CONTINUATION REQUIREMENTS

To remain in “Good Standing” in the Honors Program, you must meet particular grade point requirements, depending on your academic level. The following table identifies the minimum grade point average required at each academic level.

Earned Hours	Academic Level	Minimum NAU G.P.A.
Less than 30	Freshman	3.20
30-59	Sophomore	3.30
60-89	Junior	3.40
Greater than 89	Senior	3.50

If at any time you fall below these grade point average requirements, you will be placed on probation by the Program.

During your semester on probation, you may continue taking honors courses and receiving all the benefits of the Honors Program. If at the end of your probation semester you have not achieved the minimum GPA for your academic level you may be continued on probation for a second semester. While on probation for the second semester, you may continue taking honors courses, but you no longer receive priority registration privileges. Other benefits of the Honors Program may also be suspended. After the second semester of probation, if your grade point average does not meet the established minimum requirements, you will be suspended from the Honors Program. (See Withdrawal from Program.)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

You are required to complete the Liberal Studies Honors curriculum and achieve a minimum NAU grade point average of 3.5 to graduate “with Liberal Studies Honors.”

If you complete the Liberal Studies Honors curriculum and fail to achieve the 3.5 grade point average minimum, you be allowed to substitute the Liberal Studies Honors curriculum for the University Liberal Studies

curriculum to fulfill to graduation degree requirements; however, you will not earn the “with Liberal Studies Honors” designation at graduation.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

Request to discontinue participation in the Honors Program should be submitted in writing.

APPLYING HONORS COURSES TO UNIVERSITY LIBERAL STUDIES

If you discontinue participation in the Honors, by choice or by suspension, you will need to complete the University Liberal Studies curriculum to fulfill your degree requirements. Honors designated courses may be applied toward the University Liberal Studies requirements.

Honors courses can be used to meet the University Liberal Studies requirements in the following manner:

HON 190: Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing I and HON 191: Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing II combined will be used to fulfill the Liberal Studies Foundations English composition requirement. Additionally, you must have earned a passing score on the University’s English Placement Exam or have completed ENG 205.

If you fulfilled the Liberal Studies Foundation English composition requirement by completing course work at another institution, or by successfully completing an Advanced Placement (AP) exam or the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam or another approved means, and you can use either HON 190 or HON 191 to fulfill three hours in the Aesthetic and Humanistic Inquiry block of the Liberal Studies Distribution Requirements.

Honors courses, those offered by the Honors Program (HON prefix) or offered by other departments for honors students (-H suffix), are given Liberal Studies designations based upon the subject matter, topic, or theme of each individual course.

If necessary, a memo will be provided to your major advisor detailing how completed honors courses are to be applied to the University Liberal Studies curriculum.