

# University Honors

**John R. Vile, Dean**

**Philip E. Phillips, Associate Dean**

The Honors College curriculum is designed with the needs of the superior student in mind. It is a University-wide program, leading to a minor with University Honors in a major of the student's choice. Emphasis is on small classes, excellence of instruction, and interaction between students and professors.

The University Honors College is housed in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, a facility designed to provide a sense of community among high-achieving students.

Entering freshmen are eligible to participate in the Honors College if they have a minimum high school GPA of 3.50 and a 25 composite score on the ACT or SAT 1200. Returning MTSU and transfer students with 12 or more hours must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or greater to enroll in Honors classes.

Participation in the MTSU Honors College does not afford students an automatic waiver of out-of-state tuition.

## Graduation Requirements

To graduate from the University Honors College, a student must

1. complete a minimum of 15 hours of any level Honors coursework or approved substitutions;
2. complete the following 8 hours of upper-division Honors coursework:
  - a. 1 hour, UH 3000 - University Honors Lecture Series, UH 3200 - Visiting Artist's Seminar, or ENGL 3635 - Creative Writing Event Series;
  - b. 3 hours, Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar (UH 3500, approved study abroad, internship or research hours substitution, UH 3900, UH 4010 or UNIV 4010);
  - c. 1 hour, UH 4900 - Honors Thesis Tutorial (Astronomy or Physics majors take ASTR 4850/PHYS 4850 - approval required);
  - d. 3 hours, UH 4950 - Honors Independent Research or Creative Project (Astronomy or Physics majors take ASTR 4900/PHYS 4900 - approval required);
3. have a minimum 3.25 overall GPA;
4. file an Intent to Graduate form no later than the beginning of the semester of graduation.

## Recognition

Students who graduate from the University Honors College

1. can request a certificate upon completion of 15 hours of any level Honors coursework;
2. have all Honors coursework designated on their transcripts;
3. have "University Honors College graduate" designated on the official transcript and diploma;
4. wear special academic regalia at graduation.

## Honors Associate Requirements

Students who lack the 12 Honors hours (any level) may earn the Honors Associate minor if they

1. have at least three semesters left before graduation;
2. receive approval from an Honors College advisor;
3. complete the following 11 hours of upper division Honors coursework:
  - a. a minimum of 3 hours of any level Honors section or Honors upper-division contract (or approved study abroad, internship, or research substitution);
  - b. 1 hour, UH 3000 - University Honors Lecture Series, UH 3200 - Visiting Artist's Seminar, or ENGL 3635 - Creative Writing Event Series;
  - c. 3 hours, Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar (UH 3500, approved study abroad, internship, or research substitution, UH 3900, UH 4010 or UNIV 4010);
  - d. 1 hour, UH 4900 - Honors Thesis Tutorial (Astronomy or Physics majors take ASTR 4850/PHYS 4850 - approval required);
  - e. 3 hours, UH 4950 - Honors Independent Research or Creative Project (Astronomy or Physics majors take ASTR 4900/PHYS 4900 - approval required);

4. have a minimum overall 3.25 GPA.

An engraved University Honors College medallion is awarded upon the completion of the honors thesis. Honors Associates will not receive the designation "Graduated from the University Honors College" on their transcript and diploma. However, completing an Honors thesis can make students more competitive when applying to graduate or professional school.

## Honors Minors

Students who intend to complete the requirements to graduate through the University Honors College will add the Honors Minor (23 hours) to their overall degree requirements. Students who intend to complete an Honors Associate option will add the Honors Associate Minor (15 hours).

Students who receive the Buchanan, Buchanan Transfer Fellow, or special Honors four-year scholarships will have the applicable Honors minor added to their program of study at the point of entry into the Honors College. Other students will add the Honors Minor (or the Honors Associate Minor) when they enroll in an upper-division Honors course (such as UH 3000, 3200, 3500, 4010, or 4900). The Honors College will send a list of names to the Records office in order for the Honors minor to be added to their program of study.

Additional minors or hours may be needed to fulfill University graduation requirements. Students must consult their major advisors. Students choosing to complete an Honors Minor must meet with an Honors College Advisor to complete the Honors upper-division form for their appropriate Honors Minor and to obtain a signature from the Honors College.

## Departmental or School Honors Offerings

Honors sections are offered in the following schools or departments:

Accounting	Management
Aerospace	Marketing
Agriculture	Mathematical Sciences
Art and Design	Media Arts
Biology	Music
Chemistry	Philosophy and Religious Studies
Communication Studies	Physics and Astronomy
Criminal Justice Administration	Political and Global Affairs
Economics and Finance	Psychology
English	Recording Industry
Health and Human Performance	Sociology and Anthropology
History	Theatre and Dance
Human Sciences	University Studies
Journalism and Strategic Media	World Languages, Literatures, and Culture

Honors students may receive a limited number of Honors credit in non-Honors courses under special circumstances (see Honors).

## Publications

The Honors College publishes a semi-annual honors news magazine, *Areté; Collage*, an arts and literary magazine that accepts poetry, short stories, short plays, song lyrics, photography, art, video and film, and audio; and *Scientia et Humanitas*, an undergraduate and graduate research journal that accepts essays in natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

## **Scholarships**

The Honors College offers Buchanan Fellowships to 20 incoming freshmen a year, Honors Buchanan Transfer Fellowships to 30 incoming transfer students a year, and additional achievement scholarships to MTSU undergraduates who have distinguished themselves in Honors courses. Other academic and study abroad scholarships are open to active Honors students.

## **Study Abroad and Internships**

The Honors College offers Honors signature programs away and abroad as well as support for a variety of additional study abroad opportunities. Students wishing to receive Honors credit must complete an Honors Study Abroad Intent form and meet with representatives of the MTSU Education Abroad Office and the Honors College advisor prior to the trip. A maximum of 9 hours from approved study abroad programs can be applied toward Honors Minor requirements. Students may request to use internship credits towards the Honors Minor requirements. Internships must count for college credit and appear on the official MTSU transcript in order to substitute for Honors requirements. Students must request approval prior to the start of the internship by submitting an Internship Credit Substitution Request form to an Honors College advisor.

Once final grades have been submitted for the internship, the credits will be evaluated by an Honors College advisor to determine if the earned credits will substitute for lower- or upper-division honors requirements. A maximum of six hours will substitute for Honors requirements. If the internship is graded on an A to F scale, the student must earn a B- or higher in order for the internship credits to substitute for Honors requirements.

## **Undergraduate Fellowships Office**

The Undergraduate Fellowships Office strives to refer and aid MTSU students for national and international awards, scholarships, grants, and more. The office promotes academic and scientific scholarships that allow students to further study in their future, respected careers. The Undergraduate Fellowships Office has had students receive numerous scholarships, including Gates Cambridge, Fulbright, Goldwater, Gilman, Critical Language Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi, and Udall, as well as finalists for the Marshall Scholarship, Rhodes Scholarship, and Truman Scholarship. See [www.mtsu.edu/honors/ufo](http://www.mtsu.edu/honors/ufo) for more information.

## University Honors Associate Minor

The University Honors Associate Minor requires 15 hours. All courses within the minor may also be used to fulfill True Blue Core requirements, major or minor requirements, or electives. With an advisor's approval, a maximum of 9 credit hours of study abroad and/or a maximum of 6 credit hours of internship credits may be used toward these requirements. A 3.25 overall GPA is required.

### Required University Honors Courses (8 hours)

- UH 3000 - University Honors Lecture Series **1 credit hour** OR
- UH 3200 - Visiting Artist's Seminar **1 credit hour** OR
- ENGL 3635 - Creative Writing Event Series **1 credit hour**
  
- UH 3500 - Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar **3 credit hours** OR
- UH 3900 - Honors Research Seminar **3 credit hours** OR
- UH 4010 - MTSU Institute of Leadership Excellence **3 credit hours** OR
- UNIV 4010 - MTSU Institute of Leadership Excellence **3 credit hours** OR
- Approved study abroad, internship, or research hours substitution **3 credit hours**  
*NOTE: Transfer fellows may use UH 3900*
  
- UH 4900 - Honors Thesis Tutorial **1 credit hour** OR
- ASTR 4850 - Astronomy Research **2 credit hours** OR
- PHYS 4850 - Physics Research **2 credit hours**
  
- UH 4950 - Honors Independent Research **3 credit hours** OR
- ASTR 4900 - Astronomy Senior Thesis **2 credit hours** OR
- PHYS 4900 - Physics Senior Thesis **2 credit hours**

### Electives (7 hours)

- Any level electives (3 hours honors, 4 any course/any level)

## University Honors Minor

The University Honors Minor requires 23 hours. All courses within the minor may also be used to fulfill True Blue Core requirements, major or minor requirements, or electives. With an advisor's approval, a maximum of 9 credit hours of study abroad and/or a maximum of 6 credit hours of internship credits may be used toward these requirements. A 3.25 overall GPA is required.

### Required Courses (8 hours)

- UH 3000 - University Honors Lecture Series **1 credit hour** OR
- UH 3200 - Visiting Artist's Seminar **1 credit hour** OR
- ENGL 3635 - Creative Writing Event Series **1 credit hour**
  
- UH 3500 - Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar **3 credit hours** OR
- UH 3900 - Honors Research Seminar **3 credit hours** OR
- UH 4010 - MTSU Institute of Leadership Excellence **3 credit hours** OR
- UNIV 4010 - MTSU Institute of Leadership Excellence **3 credit hours** OR  
Approved study abroad, internship, or research hours substitution **3 credit hours**  
*NOTE: Transfer fellows may use UH 3900*
  
- UH 4900 - Honors Thesis Tutorial **1 credit hour** OR
- ASTR 4850 - Astronomy Research **2 credit hours** OR
- PHYS 4850 - Physics Research **2 credit hours**
  
- UH 4950 - Honors Independent Research **3 credit hours** OR
- ASTR 4900 - Astronomy Senior Thesis **2 credit hours** OR
- PHYS 4900 - Physics Senior Thesis **2 credit hours**

### Electives (15 hours)

- Any level Honors Courses or Buchanan Fellow Requirements (below)

### Buchanan Fellows (15 hours)

Buchanan Fellows must register for the Buchanan sections of the courses listed. Any waivers or substitutions must have prior approval from the dean of the Honors College.

- COMM 2200 - Audience-Centered Communication **3 credit hours**
- ENGL 2020 - Themes in Literature and Culture **3 credit hours**
- PHIL 1030 - Introduction to Philosophy **3 credit hours**
- Any level Honors courses **6 credit hours**

## University Honors

### **UH 3000 - University Honors Lecture Series**

**1 credit hour** A series of weekly lectures designed to stimulate thought and broaden the student's knowledge in a variety of fields. May be repeated for up to 3 hours credit. Pass/Fail.

### **UH 3001 - Honors Service Learning Practicum**

**1 to 3 credit hours** Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Opportunity to take part in service learning projects with community or on-campus partners. Pass/Fail. (May be repeated for up to three credit hours.)

### **UH 3200 - Visiting Artist's Seminar**

**1 credit hour** Prerequisites: Junior standing and maintenance of a 3.25 overall GPA. An intensive workshop/seminar in one artistic form. The instructor will be a visiting artist whose course topic will depend on his or her field of experience.

### **UH 3500 - Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar**

**3 credit hours** Prerequisite: ENGL 2020, ENGL 2020, or HUM 2610. (May be taken more than one time as topics change.) Introduces students to the political, social, economic, scientific, artistic, and/or humanistic aspects of culture, using an interdisciplinary approach. See class schedule for current semester's topic.

### **UH 3900 - Honors Research Seminar**

**3 credit hours** Prerequisite: For Honors Transfer Fellows only; permission of department required. Required of Honors Transfer Fellows. Introduces students from a variety of disciplines to the research methods necessary for successful completion of the honors thesis proposal and the honors thesis. Specific objectives include choosing a research topic, understanding the thesis process, identifying an appropriate faculty mentor, and drafting a tentative thesis topic. Assignments may include writing reports, assembling annotated bibliographies, and giving oral reports using appropriate technology. Course will be team-taught occasionally to expose students to multidisciplinary approaches to research.

### **UH 4010 - MTSU Institute of Leadership Excellence**

**3 credit hours** Prerequisites: Permission of instructor; 3.0 cumulative GPA; must have completed 60 credit hours by start of course. An intensive learning experience in leadership excellence. Involves significantly more clock hours than the typical three-credit-hour course but offers a remarkably unique experience. The institute has three primary objectives: academic study of leadership theory and practice, with an emphasis on application; extensive exposure to accomplished leaders; and completion of a substantial student project, a part of which will be a personal action plan for leadership growth. Participants must be prepared to attend morning, afternoon, and evening sessions for one week during May term.

### **UH 4900 - Honors Thesis Tutorial**

**1 credit hour** Prerequisite: Permission of department. Designed to guide students and their directors in the completion of an Honors thesis. Specific objectives include choosing and narrowing an appropriate topic, collecting a working bibliography, preliminary reading, and writing a thesis proposal. Pass/Fail.

### **UH 4950 - Honors Independent Research**

**3 credit hours** Prerequisite: Permission of department. Interdisciplinary research for the advanced Honors student.