

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY JOIN THE HONORS SCHOOL?

The purpose of the Honors School is to provide high achieving, high ability, and highly motivated students the guidance, support, and fuel they need to take a deep dive into their intellectual passions, explore fields of study that expand those passions, and connect them with like-minded students and faculty. If you are looking for an educational experience that provides the time and space to engage in serious academic work, ask important and challenging questions, working toward solving complex problems, and creating and sharing new knowledge, then the Honors School is for you!

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE HONORS SCHOOL?

- **Incoming new students** must be admitted into Monmouth University with a GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and a combined Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing SAT score of 1290, with a score on either component no lower than 570, or 26 on the ACT. Students who present these qualifications on their applications are evaluated individually for admission as an Honors student.
- **Incoming transfer students** must transfer into Monmouth University at least 30 credits with an overall cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in all previous college-level work. If you are an incoming transfer student and believe you are qualified, please contact the Honors School office (732-263-5308) to schedule an interview.
- **Current Monmouth University students** must complete at least 12 credits at Monmouth University with an overall cumulative GPA of at least 3.5. If you are a current Monmouth University student and believe you are qualified, please contact the Honors School office (732-263-5308) to schedule an interview.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO GRADUATE FROM THE HONORS SCHOOL?

To graduate from the Honors School, students must complete all Monmouth University undergraduate degree requirements with an overall cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 and must complete 25 Honors credits:

1. **Twelve Honors credits at the lower (100-200) level:** You may fulfill this requirement through Honors courses or Honors sections of regular courses. These may be General Education courses, courses that count towards your major or minor, or free electives.
2. **Nine Honors credits at the upper (300-400) level:** You may fulfill this requirement through Honors sections of regular courses, or in regular courses with an individual Honors learning contract ("Honors Credit by Contract").
3. **Four Honors credits to complete your capstone:** The Honors capstone sequence includes two two-credit courses, HO 495 Thesis Development and HO 496 Thesis Writing. Read further for more information about the capstone.

DO HONORS COURSES AND SECTIONS REQUIRE MORE WORK THAN REGULAR COURSES?

The purpose of an honors education is to allow students to engage in an enhanced educational experience that interests and excites them. Honors courses and sections, and Honors Credit by Contract, are designed to help students take ownership over their education through:

- **Initiative** by conducting additional outstanding work pertaining to the course that is not required in the course but that clearly benefits the student, professor, or class.
- **Achievement** of superior work already required in the course through high performance on a major assignment.
- **Leadership** through an exceptional activity or conduct in the class that benefits the student, professor, or class.

Often Honors work is not more work, but it is a different quality of work, because the Honors classroom differs from a regular classroom. Honors courses and sections enroll a maximum of twenty students, and some courses and sections are linked in clusters, so class time tends to focus on discussions that enable you to think more deeply about the material. In Honors clusters, common reading and writing assignments add greater depth, helping you to connect different disciplines. In addition, because Honors students take many classes together, you will quickly get to know your classmates, facilitating collaboration.

HOW DIFFICULT IS THE HONORS CAPSTONE?

The Honors capstone allows students to dive deeply into an intellectual passion of their choice. The capstone can take a variety of forms, including a research thesis or creative project. You choose your own topic between your sophomore and senior years, and complete your project over at least two semesters. When you start work on your project, one or two faculty readers and an area Honors Thesis Advisor, as well as the Honors School Dean assist and guide you. In the sophomore year, Capstone Information Sessions provide opportunities for students to ask questions and get answers. Sophomores and juniors can also take an optional one-credit course, HO 494 Thesis Preparation that helps students select a topic and begin their research. So, while challenging, your capstone project is based on your own intellectual drive and interests.

All students, including first-year students, may attend the Honors School Undergraduate Research Colloquium and the Honors School Research Conference, where you can observe fellow students who are working on and completing their Honors capstones. Many Honors students use their capstone projects as part of their graduate-school applications, include them in professional portfolios, present them at scholarly conferences, and submit them to be considered for publication in scholarly academic journals.

CAN ATHLETES FIND TIME IN THEIR SCHEDULES TO FINISH IN THE HONORS SCHOOL?

Many Honors students are also successful athletes. Each semester's offerings of Honors courses, sections, and clusters are scheduled as much as possible to accommodate practices and competitions.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR HOUSING WITH OTHER HONORS STUDENTS IN BEECHWOOD HALL? AND TO BE AN HONORS STUDENT, MUST I LIVE IN BEECHWOOD HALL?

Once you have accepted admission into Monmouth University and the Honors School, you may access the housing application at www.monmouth.edu/welcome. After you have submitted an enrollment deposit, housing contract, and housing deposit, you will receive a mailing about requesting housing in Beechwood Hall with other Honors students, which you must return. Housing in Beechwood Hall is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you prefer, you can live in another residence hall or be a commuter student. All **first-year** Honors School residential students have the ability to move into their residence hall one day earlier. Regardless of residential or commuter status, all Honors School students may use Honors School and Beechwood Hall common facilities.

DO YOU PROVIDE ANY ORIENTATION FOR NEW HONORS STUDENTS?

In addition to MU's New Student Orientation, designated *Honors First-Year Advisors* assist Honors students with academic scheduling and priority registration. During the summer, the Peer Mentoring Program pairs new students with upper-class student mentors, often by major, and holds a retreat after priority move-in. Mentoring continues throughout the new students' first year. The Honors School Dean also meets with each new student. And the Honors School office encourages you to stop by, enjoy complimentary beverages and snacks, and share with us your concerns and successes.

ARE THERE SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HONORS STUDENTS?

Limited competitive scholarships are available for incoming first-year Honors students. The Honors School also provides many other financial advantages, including free social events on campus and cultural enrichment activities off campus, funding for participation in academic conferences, research grants, and a variety of academic awards.

If you would like further information about these or any other matters related to the Honors School, e-mail Dr. Nancy Mezey, Dean of the Honors School (nmezey@monmouth.edu), or Doris Meyer, Assistant to the Dean (dmeyer@monmouth.edu), or call us at 732-263-5308.