



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 1250, 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 thirty 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 twelve 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 twenty-five 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 thesis:** The Honors Thesis sequence includes two two-credit courses, HO 495 Thesis Development and HO 496 Thesis Writing. Read further for more information about the thesis.



Do all Honors courses and sections require more work than regular courses?

Honors courses and sections, and even Honors Credit by Contract, may require one or more of the following:

- **initiative:** additional outstanding work pertaining to the course that is not required in the course but that clearly benefits the student, professor, and/or class.
- **achievement:** superior work already required in the course, usually B+ or higher performance on a major assignment.
- **leadership:** exceptional activity or conduct in the class that clearly benefits the student, professor, or class.

So, often the work is not more but just different, 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.



Will Honors School courses make it more difficult for me to keep a high grade-point average?

Honors School students are evaluated by objective standards of performance and are graded just like other students. However, small Honors classes and the supportive Honors environment will facilitate your adjustment to college as well as your academic success.

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How difficult is the Honors thesis?

The Honors thesis differs from a conventional course paper in preparation, development, and writing. You choose your own thesis topic between your sophomore and senior years, and complete your thesis over at least two semesters, maybe more. And much help is available. 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 theses. In the sophomore year, *Thesis Information Sessions* provide opportunities for you to ask questions and get answers. For sophomores and juniors, an optional one-credit course, *HO 494 Thesis Preparation*, helps you select a topic and begin your research. When you start work on your thesis, *one or two faculty readers and an area Honors Thesis Advisor* assist and guide you. So, your thesis is not difficult, but it is challenging, as it should be, because it is preparation for life after Monmouth. Many Honors students use their theses as graduate-school application writing samples, include them in professional portfolios, propose them as scholarly conference presentations, or submit them to be considered for publication by peer-reviewed academic journals.

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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.

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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 its 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 facilities.

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Do you provide any orientation for new Honors students?

In addition to the university'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 more experienced students, often by major, and holds a retreat after priority move-in. Mentoring continues throughout a new student's first year. The Honors School Dean meets with each new student. The Honors School office encourages you to stop by, enjoy complimentary beverages and snacks, and share with us your concerns and successes.

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Are there special scholarships for Honors students?

No additional special scholarships for first-year Honors students are available, but the Honors School 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. Walter D. Greason Dean of the Honors School (wgreason@monmouth.edu), or Reenie Menditto, Director of Honors School Student Standards, Advising, and Services (imenditt@monmouth.edu), or call us at 732-263-5308.