

Dorothy & Bill Cohen Honors College Student Handbook 2020

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Introduction

Welcome, to the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College at Wichita State University!

We've gathered together some information in this Honors Student Handbook that we hope will help you take full advantage of Honors resources and opportunities. In many sections of this book, we've given a brief overview and suggest a person to contact or place where you can find more information. Like so much of what we do in Honors, this handbook is an experiment, and it was designed by a student. We hope you'll find this useful, and we expect that you'll tell us how to improve it for next year.

As you think ahead to this year, I invite you to consider what it means to do more meaningful work, the goal we set for ourselves in Cohen Honors each year. We want students and faculty to discover, explore, and develop their talents and to use those talents to move others forward too, whether through research work that contributes to understanding cancer cells, or through leading a student organization, a class discussion, or a trip abroad.

We embrace diversity of thought and experience in this community. Over the past couple of years, Cohen Honors students have led conversations about who we are and how we welcome students and faculty. We've changed some of our admissions messaging and are launching a qualitative admissions process this year. We are always seeking ways to improve in Honors, and we look forward to continuing those conversations with all of you.

I know the year ahead will be different in many ways. So much has changed in 2020, and we need to be prepared to help each other learn new ways to be in the world. I look forward to meeting all of you and growing with you this year. Please don't hesitate to reach out to let us know what you need.

**Kimberly Engber, PhD
Dean, The Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College
Associate Professor, English**

History

1957

An Honors Program was founded at Wichita State in 1957, one of the earliest in the country.



1963

In one of his most memorable speeches, The Idea of a University, presented November 11, 1963 in the Field House on the newly named Wichita State University campus, Dr. Emory Lindquist roused the crowd with his vision of education encompassing both intellect and responsibility.

"Dur university has the rich sense of belonging to the past," he reminded students, faculty and alumni, "and the exciting feeling that the future is heavy with the promise of better things. It is a place where the present is sometimes a difficult reality but it harbors great dreams about the future."

1978

The Honors Program was named after Emory Lindquist, Rhodes Scholar, 8th University President and the 1st President of Wichita State University.



2013

An Honors College was created by the WSU faculty.

2014

The faculty and Kansas Board of Regents approved the new Honors Baccalaureate degree, one of the few self-designed plans of study available in the country and the only one in this region.

2015

In April 2015, the college was named after generous benefactors, Dorothy and Bill Cohen, whose gift endows enhancement scholarships to support study abroad, National Student Exchange, internships in the public sector, travel to national conferences and service learning. The Cohen gift also supports Honors faculty fellows and funds student leadership development through problem-solving education, furthering the Honors mission of *joining knowledge and innovation to grow visionaries*.





Honors Community

Governance

University Honors College Council

The University Honors College Council is the governing board for the college. This council is made up of both the student council and the faculty council. They strive to serve both the student and faculty members of our college.

Faculty Council

The Faculty Council is a group that meets monthly with the dean. They are tasked with determining curriculum for the college.

Current Members

Douglas Parham - Health Professions

Holger Meyer - LAS Math/Natural Science

Elaine Bernstorf - Fine Arts

Nathan Filbert - University Libraries

Samantha Gregus - LAS Social Sciences

Patrick Bondy - LAS Humanities

Jeremy Patterson - Applied Studies, Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation

Roy Myose - Engineering

Atul Rai - Business

Jessica Raburn - Honors Advisor, ex-officio

Kimberly Engber - Honors Dean, ex-officio

Advisory Board

This group, mainly comprised of alumni advises the dean and helps make decisions about membership, student experience and various other things.

Current members

James Blakemore

Sharon Iorio

Michael Jones

Eric Melgren (Chair Emeritus)

Rebecca Morgan

William Pate

Joy Vann-Hamilton

Joan Wagner (Board Chair)

Chris Wettig

Dorothy Cohen (Honorary)

Bill Cohen (Honorary)

- [Bylaws](#)
- [More Information about Governance](#)

Governing Student Groups

STUDENT COUNCIL

As an Honors Student, you have a voice in the governance of the Honors College in the form of the Honors Student Council. The Student Council seeks to use its constitutional influence to improve the student experience, and represent student interests.

Your Student Council is committed to amplifying the student perspective in college governance, and finding innovative ways to make being an Honors Student that much better. Any concerns or questions can be brought to council members!

Abby Sheahan- Vice-Chair
Analisa Bridge- Director of Records
Tyler Stice- Treasurer
Cali Keith- Director of Marketing
Jacquelyn Martinez- Director of Diversity Initiatives
Jadie Chauncey- Director of Recruitment
Jacob Tubach- SGA Senator
Ella Ihrig- SGA Senator
Skylar Russell- LLC Resident Assistant
Emma Ahrenholtz- WHEAT President
Kimberly Engber- Dean
Jessica Raburn- Academic Advisor

First-Year Honors Advisory Board

FHAB is an extension of the Student Council. An elected member of this board will sit on the student council as Freshman Representative. Multiple students serve on this board. This group works to improve the first year honors student experience.

FHAB positions, as well as some council positions will be selected in the fall.

For more information about the council, and work they have done visit
https://www.wichita.edu/academics/honors_college/honors-student-council.php

Other Student Groups

Wichita Honors Events & Activities Team

WHEAT hosts a variety of honors events throughout the year! These events include game nights, holiday parties, and community service events. They work to help create a connected, and welcoming honors environment. Follow their social media to get updates on these events.

Instagram: @wheat.wsu

More information on WHEAT and how to join can be found [here](#).

HONORS AMBASSADORS

Honors Ambassadors represent the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College at various events and activities across campus. Ambassadors also meet once a month in order to learn about new events, or information they may need to recruit students.

To become an Honors Ambassador you must be accepted to the Cohen Honors College. Interviews are held every May for new Honors Ambassadors, and new member training begins in the fall semester.

More Information can be found [here](#).

LLC

LLC Honors students are invited to live and learn with motivated and creative peers in the Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) in Shocker Hall. Students in the honors LLC live on a floor with just honors students and participate in various activities.

Honors Houses

WHEAT has created honors sorting houses to get to know students better, and to create a stronger sense of community. Similar to Hogwarts houses, honors houses group together students by similar characteristics.

Each house embodies one of the four pursuits described in the Cohen Honors College Charter, and each house's mascot honors an animal that has been designated as endangered. Students can earn points for their houses at various WHEAT events, and a "house cup" will be awarded for the most points at the end of the year. Click the picture below, and scroll down to learn more about the houses, and take the quiz.



Honors Shirts



[Click here to order honors shirts](#)

Honors Hours

Honors hours are put on by the Honors Student Council. These are interactive events to expand knowledge and bring the honors college together. Previous events have included topics like imposter syndrome, and civic engagement.

The most recent event was about civic engagement, and featured Wichita Mayor, Brandon Whipple.



Social Media



[@cohenhonors_wsu](#)

[@cohenhonors_wsu](#)

[@lindquistghost](#)



Benefits of Honors

Honors Space

The newly expanded honors space is a great place to study, hang out with friends, and get more involved with the honors community.

The space includes:

- several study areas
- a conference room
- a seminar /classroom
- computers
- free printing for honors students
- a kitchen

The space is currently equipped with plexiglass shields, and less seating than normal. These are a part of our effort to keep our students and staff as safe and healthy as possible.



Advising and Enrollment

Priority Enrollment: Select your classes on the first day enrollment opens!

Honors Advising: The Honors Advisor can assist you with exploring Honors courses, sequence of Honors courses, general information about post-graduate plans, nationally competitive scholarships, Honors internships and general questions about Honors.

Schedule an appointment with the Honors Advisor by emailing
Jessica.Raburn@wichita.edu

When to meet with an advisor? Early and often, planning your coursework with an advisor, whether required to or not, can save you time, money and frustration. Visiting an Academic Advisor can save you hundreds wasted on unnecessary coursework and possibly even a semester in college therefore postponing your future earnings. Advising appointments are unlimited and free.

How should I prepare for my appointment? Come prepared with as much of a plan for the next semester(s) as you are able. Be prepared to talk about your future career/graduate plans and share them! This can help the advisor make suggestions about coursework or experiences. Write down questions so you don't forget them in the moment.

Note: Students in the College of Engineering and the College of Fine Arts are required you to meet with a College Advisor each semester prior to enrollment.

What is Honors Education?

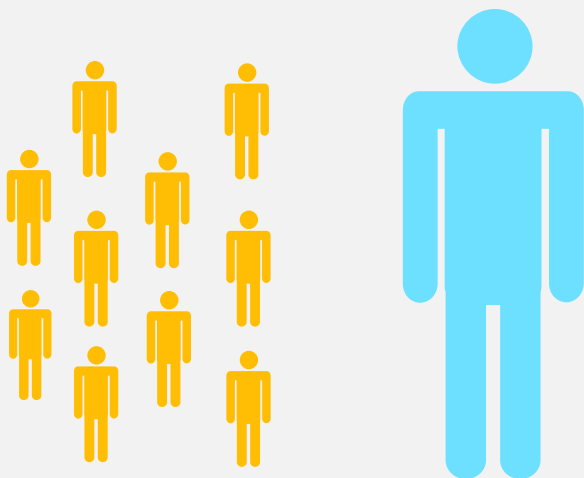
Honors education engages students in learning both broadly and deeply by providing both general study and advanced scholarship opportunities. Honors is designed to be approached as an experience instead of a set of requirements.

Honors Classes

Many Honors seminars double as both a general education course, and part of your honors track.

In addition, some departments offer H or honors sections of their courses such as general psychology (PSY 111H), public speaking (COMM 111H), and many others. These too may serve as part of your major, as well as part of your honors track.

The main difference between Honors courses and regular courses isn't workload but the type of work. In honors we strive to do more meaningful work. This can be by going deeper into topics, or doing applied learning activities. Because of the smaller class size, honors classes are not usually lecture based. Honors courses are usually much more discussion and application based.



10 to 1 student to
faculty ratio

Honors Option classes

WHAT IS AN HONORS OPTION?

An honors option is an agreement between an honors student and an instructor. This agreement adds a more in depth individual component to a non-honors course, allowing the student to get honors credit. This is often used on subjects not offered in honors at the time or with students who are creating their own honors track (see tracks later in the handbook).

PROCESS

- Reflecting on desired outcome of agreement
- Preparing suggestions of possible work
- Having the course information (CRN, instructor, etc.) collected for quick entry
- Emailing faculty member thoughts on outcome & work prior to in-person meeting
- Student and faculty member meet to discuss and complete the Honors Option Course Agreement: This may take more than one meeting depending on the complexity of the topic and may be done using remote methods such as Zoom.
- Student and faculty member submit this form by the end of the **THIRD WEEK OF CLASS**.
- At the end of the semester, the Cohen Honors College will contact each instructor to confirm that the student successfully completed Honors Option work.
- Upon successful completion of the Honors Option work, an Honors designation for the course will be added to the student's transcript. This may take up to 4 weeks from the end of the semester.
- This form is designed to be completed in the faculty member's office with the student present. Most likely, you will pass the keyboard to the person completing information. We are aware this might feel awkward. However, we have faith that you will figure it out. If this is not possible (such as with an online professor who doesn't hold office hours on campus or during times of social distancing) please contact the Cohen Honors College academic advisor for guidance.

Link to form: https://wichitastate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eldirWMjiPoYIOI

Scholarships for Current Students

Cohen Enhancement

A generous gift from Dorothy and Bill Cohen allows the Cohen Honors College to fulfill its mission of joining knowledge and innovation to grow visionaries. Cohen Enhancement Scholarships of up to \$4000 support current Honors students in activities such as study abroad, National Student Exchange, unpaid internships, national conferences, undergraduate research or service learning.

Application deadlines: June 15, October 15, and Feb 1

Renewal

To remain in good standing in the Cohen Honors College and continue receiving your Merit, Koch or McGregor Scholarships you must:

Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 and complete at least 3 Honors credits each year or complete a 12-credit Honors track

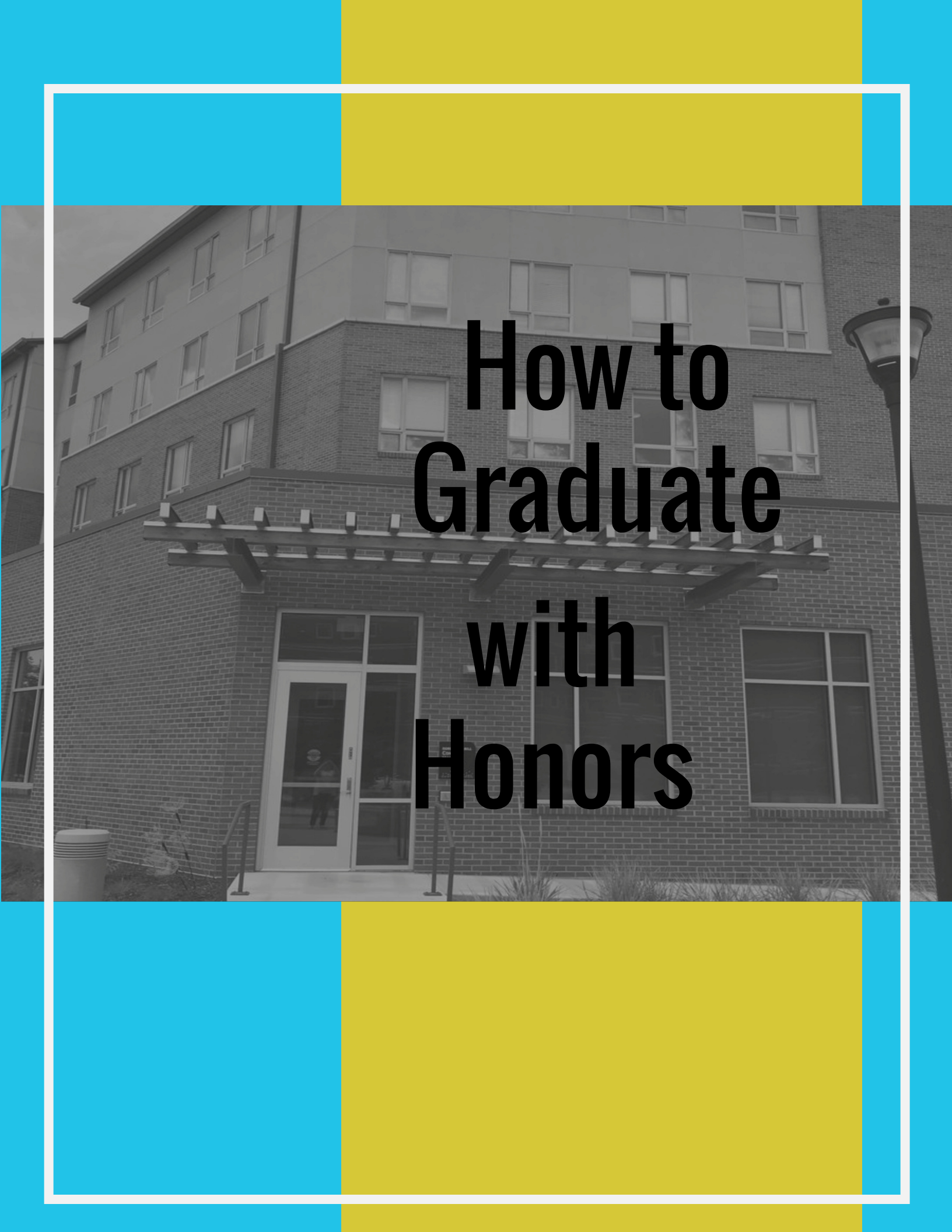
Enroll in and successfully complete at least 30 credit hours each academic year.

NOTE: If students have fewer than 24 hours remaining in their degree program, enrollment exceptions may be granted on an individual review based on a written request.

National Scholarships

The Cohen Honors College advises all WSU students, including Honors students, applying for competitive National Scholarships such as the Rhodes, Truman and Fulbright. Contact the Cohen Honors College to make an appointment with the Cohen Honors College to talk about your application.

find more information on these and information on scholarships available for first year students [here](#).



How to Graduate with Honors

Good Standing

To remain in good standing in the Cohen Honors College you must:

- maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25,
- take at least 3 Honors credits each year (one Honors class per year) or have completed a 12-credit hour Honors Track,
- and enroll in and successfully complete at least 12 credit hours at WSU each semester (fall and spring).

If you should fail to meet one of these requirements, come in to speak with our honors advisor.

Latin Honors

Latin Honors - cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude - are not affiliated with the Cohen Honors College. These honors distinctions are based solely on the student's GPA.

Honors offers multiple paths or "tracks" to earning honors distinction

Honors Tracks

The Emory Lindquist Honors Scholar

The Emory Lindquist Honors Scholar track, is the track that all incoming honors students are placed into. It serves as a foundation for honors at WSU. Completing this track or any honors track results in a designation on your transcript. Completing an University Honors Minor or Departmental Honors (Honors in the Major) results in a diploma designation.

Minimum Requirements (12 credit hours):
HNRS-prefix General Education seminar
Honors Research: HNRS 485 or HNRS 486
Honors courses of your choice (6 CR)

Leadership, Public Policy, and Interdisciplinary Tracks

Honors Students can also chose from other tracks including Leadership, Law and Public Policy, and Interdisciplinary (design your own track). Students can switch tracks in the change my major section of MyWSU. We recommend talking to your advisor first. These tracks are for students who want to use honors to go more in depth within a certain area. All of these consist of 1 core course, electives, and experience based learning (minimum 12-credit hours).

Core Courses

HNRS 351 Survey of Leadership

HNRS 352 Survey of Law and Public Policy

Choose a 3-credit introductory course that will shape the rest of your track.

Electives

All tracks require 6 credits of electives. Some of these must be chosen from specific courses. Contact your honors advisor for more information on those courses.

Experience-Based Learning (3 credits):

HNRS 398 Honors Travel Seminar (3 credits) OR
HNRS 481 Honors Cooperative Education OR
HNRS 481N Honors Internship

A student may petition Honors to count study abroad or an internship experience toward the experience-based learning requirement.

University Honors Minor

The University Honors Minor is the best of both worlds. It is comprised of the Scholar track and an Interdisciplinary track or a departmental honors track. This allows students to go in depth in a area while still receiving the research based learning that is a key part of becoming a scholar.

Students complete a minimum of 24 credit hours to earn the University Honors Minor transcript and diploma designations.

Departmental Honors

Some departments and colleges within Wichita State University offer the opportunity to receive honors for excelling within their department. You do not have to be a member of the Cohen Honors college to earn these honors, but you can be! Each department/major determines its own Departmental Honors track within the guidelines determined by the Honors College council.

The following departments currently offer honors tracks:

Aerospace Engineering

Communication

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Mathematics and Physics - earn a BS in

Physics with honors

Political Science

Public Health Sciences

Psychology

Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 in departmental honors work to receive the departmental honors designation on their diploma and transcript.

Departmental Honors tracks must consist of: 12 credit hours of academic work

A senior thesis, project, recital or equivalent experience

Honors Baccalaureate

The Honors Baccalaureate is a bachelors degree. This degree often works well for students who do not feel like a traditional major is right, or as focused as they want it to be. Students with interests across disciplines are encouraged to peruse this degree option. The H.B. works well for students intending to pursue further academic study, a law degree, a medical degree, community activism, or entrepreneurship.

This degree requires students to have concentrations, and faculty mentors from two or three different disciplines. H.B. students also work closely with the dean and the honors advisor to plan out their degree.

To earn an Honors Baccalaureate, students complete 36 credits , split between their concentration areas. They must also complete the Lindquist Honors Scholar track, an Interdisciplinary Honors track, and an Honors thesis or comprehensive project.

If you are interested in pursuing this degree path please contact your honors advisor and the dean.

Final Steps Before Graduating

1. Fill out your Application for Degree (AFD) within your MyWSU Portal.
2. Order Your Honors Stole from the [Shocker Store](#).
3. Complete the [Honors graduate yearbook form](#).
4. If you have any questions about your Honors graduation status, please contact your Honors academic advisor.
5. You will receive a Cohen Honors Graduate Survey. Please complete the survey and help us improve.
6. Check the [Commencement page](#) for other updates and information.



Applied Learning

Many study abroad trips and travel seminars are offered for honors credit. The options differ every year so check with study abroad to see this years offering's. Students can apply for the Cohen Enhancement scholarship to help cover the cost of their travel experiences.



TRAVEL



WSU participates in a program that allows students to study a semester or a year at another participating university. Students can live in a different area and experience an entirely new campus environment while continuing to pay WSU tuition and working towards a WSU degree. Honors Students can apply for Cohen Enhancement scholarships to cover some of the cost.

To participate you have to be an undergraduate student with a 2.5 GPA. You must have completed at least one semester at WSU and remain a full time student. Sadly, this program is not available to international students.

National Student Exchange

Contact: Trish Gandu

INTERNSHIPS AND COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Get real-world experience in your field of study along with college credit and a pay check - all while building your resume.

How to enroll for Honors credit:

1. Confirm with your major college advisor that an HNRS co-op or internship will count for your co-op/internship requirements for your degree, if applicable.
 2. Check the Cooperative Education and Internship site for information about getting started. You will receive an outline of steps and paperwork to guide you and your instructor. If you have questions, call the Co-op office at (316)978-3688.
 3. Identify a faculty member to serve as your co-op/internship mentor and instructor of record.
 4. Email the Advisor in the Cohen Honors College to confirm that you have a faculty mentor and have completed the steps required by Cooperative Education before enrolling. The Advisor will write to the Registrar to assign the faculty of record and to Cooperative Education to clear you for enrollment. The Advisor will then email you the CRN for registration in an HNRS section.
 5. Complete the co-op or internship requirements, and your instructor of record will assign you a grade for this course.
-

Honors now has an applied learning graduate assistant. She is here to help you find internships! Email her at appliedhonors@wichita.edu to set up a meeting!

RESEARCH

Honors and WSU have many research opportunities for students.

Incoming first-year Wichita State students who are graduated high school seniors or community college transfer students interested in STEM majors can participate in Summer Research Institute (SRI).

First-year students can participate in FYRE, a research experience designed to support STEM majors as they become members of the STEM community.

Students can also pursue research with professors, or campus partners.

Any student who wants to pursue research can apply for URCA Grants up to \$1000. These grants support collaborative student and faculty research. Submissions are accepted on a continuous basis between September 1 and March 15. Apply or learn more here.

SERVICE-LEARNING

In order to further our focus of doing more meaningful work, honors encourages service-learning. One way service-learning is encouraged is with the Honors Community Award. The Honors Community Award is a prize sponsored by the Honors Student Council. The bronze prize is awarded for 30-39 community service hours, the silver for 40-49, and the gold for 50+.

To submit your hours for consideration, log them in Volunteer ICT. Make sure you select the Cohen Honors College as your secondary affiliation. If you already volunteer for or with other groups, just make sure to log your hours with Volunteer ICT.

Students who are awarded the prize will be recognized at the Honors End-of-Year Celebration and will receive a certificate corresponding to their tier level.

Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy, funded through the original naming gift to the college, engages students in contemporary research and scholarship based on an annual theme or problem.

Honors students have big dreams and ask big questions that don't always fit neatly into disciplinary models and majors. The academy is envisioned as a transformative leadership experience that connects intellectual communities to challenge students to answer some of these questions and propose plans to fulfill some of these dreams for change.

Students will participate as a cohort in a 8 week course, a travel experience (1 credit hour travel seminar), and engage in a design thinking focused solutions retreat culminating in pitches to the faculty thought leaders.

This is a new addition to honors and more information will be available soon!

For more information, please visit wichita.edu/honorslead



LEAD FOR TOMORROW

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY | COHEN HONORS COLLEGE
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Honors Faculty

Current Honors Seminar Teaching Faculty

Neal Allen, PhD, Department of Political Science, Coordinator of the Honors Law and Public Policy Track

Heidi Bell, PhD, CPT, Department of Human Performance Studies

Elaine Bernstorf, PhD, School of Music, Honors Faculty Fellow

Laura Bernstorf, MID, lecturer, Cohen Honors College

Peter Cohen, PhD, Department of Public Health Sciences and Leadership Consultant

Robin Henry, PhD, Department of History

Louis Medvene, PhD, lecturer, Cohen Honors College

Martin Ratcliffe, lecturer and Honors Faculty Fellow, Cohen Honors College

Chelsea Redger-Marquardt Ed. D., Assistant Teaching Professor, College of Applied Studies and Cohen Honors College, and Director, Honors Service-Learning and Leadership Academy

Carolyn Shaw, PhD, Department of Political Science and Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management

Roy Wenzl, lecturer, Cohen Honors College

The full list of faculty can be found [here](#).

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General questions can be emailed to honors@wichita.edu