

## Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this brochure is to familiarize honors Political Science majors with basic honors policies and to assist students in understanding honors requirements. For detailed information about the honors requirements, refer to the Honors Student Handbook.

## Regular Enrollment in Honors Courses

Members of the Calhoun Honors College are required to take and complete at least one honors course each fall and spring semester. Students have until the last day to add a class to add their honors class. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Honors Office.

## Maintaining Membership

Honors students are required to maintain a cumulative GPR of 3.40 or higher. Should a student's cumulative GPR fall between a 2.80 and a 3.40, s/he will be placed on honors probation and will have one semester to return to good academic standing. If at any time a student's cumulative GPR falls below a 2.80, s/he will lose all privileges of membership.

## Honors Courses

Only courses listed in the university catalog as honors courses may be taken for honors credit. The only exceptions to this are Honors Contracts and graduate courses.

## Honors Credit for Graduate Courses

With the approval of the appropriate departmental undergraduate and graduate coordinators and the Honors Director, 600- and/or 800-level courses may be substituted for honors courses.

## Honors Contract

Honors Contracts are a mutual agreement between the student and the instructor for a learning experience above and beyond normal course requirements. To receive honors credit by contract, the student must take C H S H400 in conjunction with a 300- or 400-level course. The contract must be pre-approved by the

instructor of the regular course, the representative to the Calhoun Honors College committee from the College in which the course is taught, and the Honors Director.

## Earning Honors Credit

Students receive honors credit by earning a grade of A or B in honors courses (except in courses offered only as pass/fail).

## Dropping Honors Courses

Dropping honors courses may jeopardize a student's standing in the Honors College. During the last seven weeks of the semester, honors courses, like regular undergraduate courses, may not be dropped. This includes the honors component of an add-on course (mixed honors/non-honors enrollment).

## Grading

Grades in honors courses carry the same number of grade points as grades earned in non-honors courses.

## Academic Progress

Honors students are expected to set their sights on meeting the requirements of at least one of the two academic programs: General Honors and Departmental Honors.

## General Honors Requirements

To be awarded General Honors, the following requirements must be satisfied.

- 1) Completion of a minimum of six honors courses of no less than three credits each, distributed as follows:
  - a) At least one course from three or more groups (see below);
  - b) At least one course in three or more subjects (e.g., ENGL, MTHSC)
- 2) A cumulative grade point average of 3.40 or higher on all Clemson coursework;
- 3) A grade of A or B in all courses taken to fulfill the requirements of General Honors.

Group I Composition and Communication

Group II Science, Mathematics & Engineering

Group III Social Science

Group IV Arts and Humanities

Group V Cross Cultural Awareness

Group VI Science and Technology in Society

Group VII Other

(Refer to the Honors Handbook or our website for a complete listing of courses.)

## Departmental Honors Requirements

Departmental Honors in Political Science consists of four courses, totaling eight (8) hours of which three (3) hours will count toward the 30 hours in political science required for graduation.

Junior year: two one-hour courses

PO SC H395 Junior Honors Research Seminar

H396 Junior Honors Research

Senior year: two three-hour courses

H490 Senior Honors Thesis Research

H491 Senior Honors Thesis

In the junior year students take PO SC H395 and PO SC H396. In PO SC H395, students participate with other honors students and various members of the faculty in a research seminar. Students learn how to develop a research topic, how to choose an appropriate research methodology, and have the opportunity to hear research presentations. At the conclusion of the course students will prepare a research prospectus for a project to be completed the following semester in PO SC H396. This project will comprise a substantial research paper, written in conjunction with any approved three-credit 300- or 400-level political science course.

The senior thesis consists of a two-course sequence that will involve substantial independent research and will demonstrate a command of the appropriate literature. The thesis will be graded by the advisor, taking into account the comments of at least one other member of the faculty.

Requirements for PO SC H490 are assigned by the advisor and typically will consist of a detailed proposal or topic outline, an annotated bibliography, and other evidence of progress toward completion of the thesis.

The Political Science department also offers the following courses taught in French or Spanish:

PO SC H361 International Politics in Crisis (3)  
H373 Third World Politics (3)  
H375 European Integration (3)

### Honors Recognition

General Honors is recognized by a certificate of completion upon graduation from Clemson University. Your diploma, permanent transcript and commencement program will indicate your General Honors achievement.

Students who earn Departmental Honors are awarded the Honors Medallion and the Certificate of Achievement. Completion of Departmental Honors is noted on the student's transcript, diploma and in the printed graduation program.

Students who satisfy the requirements of both General Honors and Departmental Honors are recognized at a special ceremony the day before graduation in December and May.

### Honors Q & A

Q: How are honors courses different from regular courses?

A: *The main difference is quality of the learning experience, not the quantity of work assigned. Faculty are challenged to make the honors courses more enriching.*

Q: Can an honors course count for both General and Departmental Honors?

A: *No. Courses taken to fulfill General Honors cannot be applied toward Departmental Honors requirements and vice-versa.*

Q: Does the Calhoun Honors College provide academic advising?

A: *Yes. In addition to the academic adviser in your department, the Honors Office staff*

*provides advising support on an appointment or drop-in basis.*

Q: Do honors students have to complete General Honors before beginning their Departmental Honors requirements?

A: *No. Honors students can complete General Honors at any time through the last semester of their senior year.*

Q: If I take 2 hours courses in the fall do I still have to take 1 in the spring?

A: *Yes. Honors students must take at least one honors course every fall and spring semester.*

Q: Who keeps track of my progress in honors?

A: *You do. There is a worksheet for General and Departmental Honors on the honors web site. If at any time you would like to have your transcript checked for honors progress, contact the honors office.*

Q: What am I required to do to make sure that I received honors recognition at graduation?

A: *All candidates are required to complete a "Candidacy Form for Honors Graduates." The deadline for the form to be submitted coincides with the deadline for candidates to apply for a diploma.*

For more information contact the Calhoun Honors College at 656-4762 or visit

[www.clemson.edu/cuhonors](http://www.clemson.edu/cuhonors).

# CALHOUN HONORS COLLEGE



An Advising Guide  
for Political Science Majors

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