YOU ARE HONORS
CHALLENGE EXCELLENCE GROWTH

Honors College Information for Prospective Students
2021-22
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Dear Honors Student:

I am delighted to welcome you to the Clemson University Honors College. We’re excited that you are joining us, and look forward to working with you over your remaining time at Clemson University.

An Honors education at Clemson University combines the strengths of a public, land-grant university with those of a highly selective small college. You will have the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge research with some of the leading faculty in the country. Yet you will also be able to get to know your professors in small classes and in many other settings. You can take advantage of a wide range of classes in the sciences and engineering, education, the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences, and you can also take intensive seminars designed specifically for Honors students. You will also be able to pursue your broader education outside the classroom, by attending the many special events sponsored or supported by the Honors College.

Our goals in the Clemson University Honors College are twofold: to challenge you to excel, and to support you in all of your endeavors. We will set out minimum requirements, but we will also encourage you to reach your fullest potential in every area. We will provide advice and guidance, but we’ll also give you the freedom to define success in your own way, and in your own time.

This information guide is designed to make your transition to becoming a Clemson University Honors College student as easy as possible. We’ve tried to cover the essential points, but please don’t hesitate to ask us if you have any questions. Everyone in the Honors Office stands ready to help you succeed.

Sincerely,

William Lasser
Executive Director
MEET THE STAFF

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- Behavioral, Social, & Health Sciences
- Education
- Science (last names A-G)

Advises students in these colleges:
- Engineering, Computing, & Applied Sciences (last names A-Ma)
- Science (last names P-Z)

Advises students in these colleges:
- Agriculture, Forestry, & Life Sciences
- Art, Architecture, & Humanities
- Business
- Science (last names H-O)

Advises students in these colleges:
- Engineering, Computing, and Applied Sciences (last names Mc-Z)

Advises students in these colleges:
- Engineering, Computing, & Applied Sciences (last names A-Ma)
- Science (last names P-Z)

Advises students in these colleges:
- Engineering, Computing, & Applied Sciences (last names A-Ma)
- Science (last names P-Z)
Members of the Clemson University Honors College are required to take and complete at least one Honors course each fall and spring semester. All exceptions to this policy must have the prior, written permission of the Honors College. To graduate with Honors College distinction, other program requirements for General, Departmental, and/or Interdisciplinary Honors must be met (page 7-8).

Maintaining Membership in Honors
Honors students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or higher. Should your cumulative GPA fall between 2.80 and 3.40, you will be placed on Honors probation and will have one semester to return to a GPA of 3.40. If at the end of the probationary semester your cumulative GPA remains below 3.40, you will lose all privileges of membership. If your cumulative GPA falls below 2.80 at any time, you will lose all privileges of membership.

Earning Honors Credit
Students receive Honors credit by earning a grade of A or B in Honors courses (except in limited cases in which courses are offered pass/fail). If you receive a grade of C or D in an Honors course, you may earn credit toward degree requirements, but not toward the academic requirements of the Honors College.
General Honors

1. Completion of minimum of eighteen credit hours of Honors coursework, distributed as follows:
   a. At least three credit hours from three or more groups (see below); and
   b. At least one course in three or more subjects (e.g., ENGL, MATH, etc.)
2. A cumulative GPA 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 A: Composition and Communication
Group B: Science, Mathematics, and Engineering
Group C: Arts and Humanities
Group D: Social Science
Group E: Cross-Cultural Awareness
Group F: Science and Technology in Society
Group G: Other

Departmental Honors

Departmental Honors is designed to provide students a unique opportunity to do an advanced, in-depth study or project, thesis research, or a combination within their major academic disciplines. This is typically completed during students' junior and senior years, or at the point in their curriculum where they are ready to pursue Departmental Honors courses at the 3000-4000 level. Specific requirements are set by the student's chosen department.

Interdisciplinary Honors

The purpose of Interdisciplinary Honors is to provide honors students a unique opportunity to do advanced, in-depth study and/or research that combines at least two academic disciplines. Specific requirements are determined by an agreement with a faculty member in one of the academic departments, who will serve as the Interdisciplinary Honors advisor, and approved by the Director of the Honors College. To be eligible for Interdisciplinary Honors, the student must have reached an agreement with a faculty member by the end of their sophomore year on a series of proposed courses for their junior and senior years (exceptions will be made only in unusual cases, and must have the approval of the Director of the Honors College).

Students can choose to do one, two or all three of these distinctions!

These distinctions will be recorded on your academic transcript and your diploma, and will be recognized in the following ways:

Certificate of Achievement:
- General Honors
- Departmental Honors
- Interdisciplinary Honors

Honors Medallion & Pre-Graduation Ceremony:
- Departmental Honors
- Interdisciplinary Honors
- General Honors AND DH or IDH
HONORS COURSES & SEMINARS
Take Honors courses that are needed for your major's degree requirements. All Honors courses are designed to be integrated within your major's coursework!

**Honors Sections of Courses**

Honors sections of departmental courses (e.g., Chemistry 1010 (HON)) are honors versions of courses offered at Clemson University. Although honors sections typically cover the same material as their non-honors section counterpart, the smaller class sizes in honors sections allow Honors students to analyze course content at a deeper level and from different perspectives. You will find a variety of honors sections available to you throughout your degree program, including general education and upper-level coursework.

**Honors Seminars**

Honors seminars are special topic courses designed to meet your major's general education requirements. Recent topics include "Imaginary Friends in Fiction," "Religions, Cults, and Secret Societies," and "Puzzles and Paradoxes." Capped at 19 students, these seminars allow for engaging discussion and developing strong mentoring relationships with many of Clemson's top professors.

**Honors Contracts**

Honors contracts allow Honors students to work individually with faculty members to create specialized Honors courses. Students simply enroll in a non-Honors course, then work out an agreement with the instructor to make additions or modifications to the course syllabus and requirements. All contracts must be approved by the Honors College. Students may earn honors credit for a 3000- or 4000-level course by means of an Honors contract, and can contract up to two courses throughout their membership in the Honors College.

Tip:

Take Honors courses that are needed for your major's degree requirements. All Honors courses are designed to be integrated within your major's coursework!
SPECIAL PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

**Brooks Center Tickets.** The Honors College provides tickets to a wide range of performances at the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts.

*Contact: Jacqueline Overton at jlc6@clemson.edu*

**Departmental Honors Research Grant.** Students may apply for funds to support their Departmental Honors research projects. These competitive grants may be used for such needs as equipment, supplies, travel to research facilities or other items beyond the capacity of the student’s department to provide.

*Contact: Susan Falendysz at sfalend@clemson.edu*

**Honors students receive free Brooks Center tickets (first come, first served) through the Honors office.**

**Conference Travel Grants.** These grants are intended to provide financial support to students in the Honors College planning to attend, or present at, conferences related to their academic interests.

*Contact: Holly Williams at hpeasgo@clemson.edu*

**Honors Pre-Professional Programming.** The Honors College offers specialized programming for pre-law and pre-health. Honors students in addition to professional development workshops, guest speakers, and events open to all Honors students.

*Contact: Holly Williams at hpeasgo@clemson.edu*

**Dixon Fellows Program.** Designed to enhance the interpersonal relationship experience in the Honors College, the Dixon Fellows program pairs intellectually-talented students with professors who meet regularly as a small group to learn and discuss a particular topic for the year. Topics this past year have included "Legacy of Empires" and "Invention, Patenting, and Starts Ups for Students." Admission to the program is highly selective and requires a separate application. Read more on pages 13-14.

*Contact: Alexander Billinis at billini@g.clemson.edu*

**Priority Registration.** Honors students receive priority registration for classes each term. They register after graduate students and athletes.
Wellness Ambassadors. The Honors Wellness Ambassadors serve as peer mentors who help promote and maintain the wellness of Honors students. They develop wellness-related programs for the Honors College and build relationships with students through weekly drop-in hours held in the Honors Center.

Contact: Kellye Smith at kellyes@g.clemson.edu

Honors Peer Mentoring Program. The Honors College Peer Mentoring Program is designed to assist in your transition to Clemson University and the Honors College. Mentors host individual and group meetings as well as events to engage with you and ensure you have everything you need in your first year.

Contact: Holly Williams at hpeasgo@clemson.edu

Seniors Advising Sophomores in Honors (SASH). SASH provides sophomore Honors students with the opportunity to connect with and learn from senior Honors students. This program focuses on promoting professional and personal growth among sophomore Honors students.

Contact: Kellye Smith at kellyes@g.clemson.edu

Honors Community Service Group. A program run by current Honors students, the community service group provides several opportunities—forest clean-ups, animal shelter visits, etc.—each semester to volunteer in the community.

Contact: Katie Maxwell at bower2@clemson.edu

Educational Enrichment Travel Grants (EETGs). These competitive awards of up to $3,000 per academic year (during summer breaks) help support life-changing educational experiences outside the classroom and away from the Clemson campus. These experiences may be internships, foreign study, public service projects or other significant undertakings consistent with the student’s educational, career, and/or personal goals.

Contact: Melissa Hawkins at melisso@clemson.edu

Honors Study Abroad Opportunities. The Honors College offers a variety of study abroad opportunities, including a Spring internship in London and a special online course for Honors students spending the Spring semester in Europe.

Contact: Melissa Hawkins at melisso@clemson.edu

Dixon Global Policy Scholars. The Dixon Global Policy Scholars Program (GPS) offers a challenging learning opportunity for students interested in pursuing a major scholarship (such as the Rhodes, Truman or Marshall) and in enhancing their knowledge of the issues that shape the world. Admission to the program is open to freshmen and sophomores, is highly selective, and requires a separate application.

Contact: Dr. William Lasser at lasser@clemson.edu

Honors College Student Ambassadors. Student Ambassadors are Honors student volunteers who are official ambassadors for the Honors College. They meet with prospective students and their families to provide a student perspective on their various Honors experiences.

Contact: Megan Wong at mawong@clemson.edu

Learn about these programs and more at Honors Blitz which will take place after the start of the Fall semester.
A Challenge- and an Opportunity

The Joseph E. and Caroline G. Dixon Fellows Program is designed for Honors students who want an additional challenge and opportunity. A challenge - because you will interact with students and faculty dedicated to living the “life of the mind.” An opportunity - because your participation as a Dixon Fellow will enrich your undergraduate experience and enable you to assume a position of leadership and responsibility in your community and in the world.

At the heart of the Dixon Fellows experience is the mentor group, 7-9 students (junior fellows) interacting with a professor (senior fellow) who acts as a role-model and guide. These small mentor groups engage in a variety of activities designed to encourage learning and growth outside the classroom. There is diversity of topics available that will appeal to a broad section of the Honors student body and junior fellow input is considered throughout the year regarding the educational agenda of their group.

Meeting regularly, these small groups push the boundaries of what is possible in a traditional university setting. By drawing from the positives of a discussion-based seminar setting and reducing the workload, these groups morph into collaborative and informal environments designed for interpersonal connection, discussion-based learning, and intellectual growth among the Honors community. In addition, there will be various fun, program-wide events throughout the year that will serve as a break from the stresses of coursework, and foster teamwork and interaction among the fellows.

Through their shared experiences, the Dixon Junior Fellows develop the skills and talents to compete for prestigious national and international fellowships, to gain admission to top graduate and professional schools, and to enhance their personal and professional lives with speakers and professional development workshops.

The Dixon Junior Fellows are selected on the basis of academic excellence, commitment to public service, leadership potential, and personal integrity. They form a community of Clemson University’s most exceptional students. Junior Fellows are expected to:

• Take their formal studies seriously, yet maintain a strong interest in the world of learning outside the classroom;
• Expand their educational horizons to include a broader exposure to foreign cultures, the arts, and the life of the mind;
• Assume leadership roles at Clemson University, and to participate in a wide range of public service activities at Clemson and in the larger community; and
• Compete for national and international fellowships such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, Goldwater, and Truman Scholarships.
I really enjoyed the Dixon Fellows Program because it helped me form interpersonal relationships with fellow students and a professor and allowed for a comfortable integration into the broader Honors college student community during my freshman year of college.

-Grayson Robison
Economics
Class of 2024
The Honors Center in Cribb and DesChamps Halls includes several classrooms, conference rooms, a library, study spaces, the Great Hall for events, and offices where Honors staff members hold office hours. All Honors students have access to this facility 24/7, using it as a place to hold study groups, social events/gatherings, and many more activities. There is also a free printing available to Honors students in the Honors student workroom and Keurig for free coffee in the Honors kitchen on the main floor!

View a tour online: https://youtu.be/RntVovXnplQ
Honors students may choose to live in the Honors Residential College, which offers a nationally recognized living-learning community in a new residence hall with suite-style rooms and beautiful views of Hartwell Lake. The HRC also offers a faculty-in-residence who sponsors informal get-togethers, enrichment programs, mentoring, and other educational opportunities. Students in the HRC live just above the Honors Center, and McAlister Dining Hall is steps away.

View a tour online: https://youtu.be/RntVoyXnplQ
Whatever path you are considering, there are nationally competitive programs available to help you accomplish all these goals. Competing for these scholarships takes a substantial investment of time and energy, but whether or not they eventually win, students who seriously undertake the process are in for a life-changing experience. Because you will be competing against the very best college students from across the nation, it’s natural to think that the odds are against you, but fellowship foundations really are looking for students just like you! The staff of the Office of Major Fellowships is here to assist students in strategically developing robust careers throughout their time at Clemson, as well as helping them to prepare the strongest applications possible for major fellowship opportunities such as the Truman, Marshall, Goldwater, Rhodes and many others. These opportunities may seem like they are all very far away, but students who have created a plan are much more likely to achieve their goals.

Have you ever thought about traveling to a foreign country? What about pursuing a research project over the summer? Or continuing your studies after you graduate?

Make an appointment today to learn more about your options!
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Courses

Q Are Honors courses harder?
Not necessarily. Honors instructors have been challenged to make courses more enriching.

Q Will Honors courses take up too much of my study time?
Not necessarily. Honors courses tend to be faster paced and more intellectually challenging, but they should not require significantly more time than non-honors courses.

Q What do I do if I can’t find an Honors course that fits my schedule?
If you are having difficulty finding an Honors course during orientation, seek help from your academic advisor.

Q What do I do if I can’t find an Honors course that meets General Education or major requirements?
You will need to look for an Honors course that will broaden your education and count the course as an elective.

Q Is my GPA calculated differently for Honors courses than from my non-Honors courses?
No. All courses at Clemson University are calculated the same.

Q If I drop my only Honors course, will I be removed from the Honors Residential College?
No. Students are not removed mid-semester from the Honors Residential College.

Q If I take two Honors courses in the fall semester, do I have to take one in the spring semester?
Yes. Members of the Clemson University Honors College are required to take and complete at least one Honors credit hour each fall and spring semester regardless of how many they have taken previously or plan to take in future semesters.

Membership

Q If my GPA drops below a 3.40, will I be removed from the Honors Residential College in the spring semester?
Although our goal is to allow all students to remain in the Honors Residential College for the entire year, it is possible that freshmen residents of the Honors Residential College whose first semester GPR is below 2.80 may be reassigned to other campus housing effective the next semester.

Q If I drop my only Honors class and I am removed from Honors, can I rejoin the Clemson University Honors College later?
Yes. Students can rejoin Honors after they have been out one complete semester, have achieved the requisite cumulative 3.40 GPA, and have at least four semesters remaining to complete degree requirements.
**Advising**

**Q** Does the Clemson University Honors College provide academic advising?
Yes. In addition to the academic advisor in your department, the Honors Office staff provides advising support by appointment and drop-in advising events. You can schedule an appointment with your Honors advisor by visiting CU Navigate at clemson.campus.eab.com. Drop-in hours are typically held the first two weeks of classes and around course registration each semester.

**Q** Who is my advisor in my major?
To find out who your advisor is in your major, you can check the CU Navigate app or you can contact your academic department (e.g., English, General Engineering, Biological Sciences, etc.).

**Q** What is the difference between my advisor in my major and my Honors College advisor?
You will meet with your major advisor to discuss your degree progress, select courses for the following semester, and get your registration pin number. Your Honors Advisor can assist with Honors-related questions.

**Q** How often am I required to meet with my advisor in my major and my Honors College advisor?
You will be required to meet with your major advisor every semester to discuss the aforementioned topics.

You are not required to meet with your Honors Advisor every semester like you do with your major advisor. However, Honors Advisors are available to meet as frequently as needed. At the very least, it is encouraged that Honors students reach out to their Honors Advisor at least once a semester or once a year to check that you are on track with Honors graduation requirements.

**Graduation**

**Q** Do Honors students have to complete General Honors before beginning their Departmental Honors requirements?
No. Honors students can complete General Honors at any time through the last semester of their senior year.

**Q** Can an Honors course count for both General and Departmental Honors?
No. Courses taken to fulfill General Honors cannot be applied toward Departmental Honors requirements or vice-versa.

**Q** If I start taking Departmental Honors courses but decide not to complete the requirement, can I count the Honors courses toward the General Honors requirements?
Yes. Any 3000- or 4000-level Honors course that is not graded pass/fail can be counted toward the General Honors requirements.

**Financial Aid**

**Q** As a member of the Clemson University Honors College, do I automatically receive a scholarship?
No. There are no scholarships linked to membership in the Clemson University Honors College. All scholarships are administered by the Office of Financial Aid. Please contact the office by phone.

**Check out answers to your questions and more with The Honors Handbook!**

Go to the link below to find the handbook: http://www.clemson.edu/cuhonors/current-students/student-handbook/
clemson.edu/cuhonors
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