

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

University Academic Programs

Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies:

Lynn Mahoney

Director: Nele Hempel-Lamer

Assistant Director: Terri Iler

Office: Library West (LBW), Room 214

Phone: (562) 985-4706

The University Honors Program provides a selected group of highly qualified students with a unique educational experience. With small classes and opportunities to work closely with distinguished faculty and advisors, the University Honors Program offers students the best of a small college experience alongside the resources afforded by a comprehensive university setting. It unites the committed student and faculty member in a learning relationship in which each has the highest expectations of the other. Students will be immersed in the learning process and therefore must have both the ability and willingness to do intense and often self-directed intellectual work as well as a desire to make the most of the opportunities available in the University.

Available within the University Honors Program are three alternatives designed to meet the varying needs of students.

1. General Honors;
2. Honors in the Major;
3. Combination of the above for which coursework prescribed for General Honors and departmental requirements for Honors in the Major are successfully satisfied. A single capstone learning experience can be used to satisfy the General Honors and Honors in the Major requirements.

Students who successfully complete the requirements of the University Honors Program will receive a Certificate and an annotation on their transcript which marks the graduate as a person of intellectual accomplishment, one who has demonstrated a disciplined curiosity and dedication to the pursuit of knowledge.

General Honors

General Honors offers a special approach to the General Education requirements of the University through a cohesive and unified program of study. It is a program of carefully selected courses and specially designed, multi-disciplinary seminars from which a student chooses a minimum of 24 units (a minimum of 15 units in the case of upper-division transfers or continuing CSULB students who enter the Program), most of which are applied toward the 48 units of General Education courses required for graduation of all students. General Honors courses encourage student participation on an academic level not generally possible in the usual curricular offering and prepare students to write an Honors Thesis that demonstrates that the student has acquired the intellectual confidence and academic independence that are indicative of the maturely educated person.

Admission Requirements

There are three ways a student may enter the University Honors Program:

- Incoming students are invited to apply to General Honors on the basis of high school class standing, ACT composite score, and/or SAT scores. Normally, students should be in the upper ten percent of their high school classes, and have a composite ACT score of at least 24, and/or strong SAT scores, and a GPA of 3.5 or above. However, if not all of these criteria are met, a combination of them may be evaluated in addition to a letter of recommendation and a personal statement reviewed by the Honors Program Director.
- Any student who maintains a 3.5 or above overall GPA at California State University, Long Beach, in 12 or more units of coursework is eligible to participate in General Honors with a letter of recommendation from an instructor and a personal statement reviewed by the Honors Program Director. Students with a GPA of 3.5 or above in 12 or more units at California State University, Long Beach, normally will be granted automatic acceptance into the Program upon application.
- CSULB students not meeting the designated criteria may petition for admission to General Honors. Students are required to submit letters of recommendation from two instructors familiar with their work. These exceptional cases will be reviewed by the Director and the University Honors Program Advisory Board. Students are encouraged to petition if they have a good explanation for not meeting the basic requirements and/or a strong motivation to participate in the Program.
- Transfer students may enter General Honors provided they have a minimum equivalent of a 3.5 GPA in all coursework at the accredited institution from which they are transferring.

Qualified students may enter General Honors as late as their junior year. Where Honors transfer agreements have been negotiated with a community college (such as with Long Beach City College) up to 12 transfer units will be accepted as meeting the requirements of the CSULB University Honors Program. Otherwise a waiver of some of the required Honors credits (not more than 6) may be granted by the Director and the University Honors Program Advisory Board.

Academic Requirements

General Honors students must complete all University-wide graduation requirements and the requirements for their major. General Honors is itself not a major. A student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 or better in Honors and in all University courses attempted.

General Honors Plan I (minimum of 24 units) is designed for entering freshmen and consists of a minimum of 18 units of lower- and upper-division General Education courses (which may include UHP 100 and UHP 150) and a culminating 6-unit senior thesis/project in the student's major (UHP 496, Research Participation, and UHP 498, Senior Thesis/Project).

General Honors Plan II (minimum of 15 units) is primarily designed for upper-division transfers from community colleges and current CSULB students who have achieved a GPA of 3.5. It consists of a minimum of 9 units of upper-division General Education courses and a culminating 6-unit senior thesis/project in the student's major (UHP 496, Research Participation, and UHP 498, Senior Thesis/Project).

Honors in the Major (available in select majors only)

Many CSULB majors provide students with an option to pursue Honors in the Major. Students in General Honors whose major department offers an Honors in the Major option may apply to participate in both programs, in which case the General Honors thesis requirement would be satisfied through the Honors in the Major option. Honors in the Major (minimum of 9 units) consists of a minimum of one upper-division Honors-specific course in the student's major department and a culminating 6-unit senior thesis/project (courses in the major department equivalent to UHP 496 and UHP 498).

Although Honors in the Major requirements may vary among departments, usually they entail independent study, seminar courses, high levels of performance, and senior projects or theses culminating in a broad knowledge of subject matter. Information concerning Honors in the Major is available in the University Honors Program office and in participating departmental offices.

Admission Requirements

Please contact the department office or the University Honors Program office for information regarding admission. Normally a student must be a declared major, usually with at least sophomore (30 units) standing.

Academic Requirements

1. Completion of the requirements for the major. (The approval of the department chair and the departmental faculty honors advisor must be obtained to change any of the general major requirements.)
2. Completion of a minimum of one upper-division Honors-specific course in the student's major department and a culminating 6-unit senior thesis/project (courses in the major department equivalent to UHP 496 and UHP 498).

General Information

Students who have failed to enroll in courses for Honors credit for two consecutive semesters will normally be withdrawn from the Program.

Courses (UHP)

Special Honors sections of regular General Education (GE) courses in various departments as listed on the University Honors Program website at www.csulb.edu/uhp.

LOWER DIVISION

100. Angles of Vision — Honors (3)

Analytical and critical approaches leading to original and creative thinking. Development of seminar skills: preparation of analytical essays and oral presentations, examination of models and techniques of reasoning, conceptualization of research problems, writing documented paper.

101. Art, Community, Place: The LA Interchange — Honors (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Explores cultural products and performances available in the Greater Los Angeles region; considers interdisciplinary understanding of how art enriches individuals and communities; investigates the arts community's interest in sustainability.

Letter grade only (A-F).

150. Exploring a Text — Honors (3)

Prerequisite: ENGL 100 or GE Composition (Area A1).

Close reading of a work (or works) of literature — fiction or non-fiction — exploring issues of personal identity, moral choice, freedom and commitment.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

201. Sustainability and Technology in Los Angeles — Honors (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One Category B.2 GE Foundation course.

Explores major scientific issues behind our understanding of sustainability such as biodiversity, population, food and water resources, climate change, energy, public health, and the overall forecast for the environment and the human condition for the next several decades. Laboratory activities include combinations of field-trips, collecting data, and in-class analysis and reporting.

Letter grade only (A-F).

UPPER DIVISION

300. Junior Colloquium — Honors (3)

Studies of selected interdisciplinary topics, problems or issues with a view toward integration of the areas of study involved in lower-division courses.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

301. Politics and Policy in Los Angeles — Honors (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation and upper-division status.

Examines politics and policy in Los Angeles and the surrounding region, including a consideration of governing structures, demographic trends and needs, environmental issues, and growth and development patterns, and relies on service-learning to inform work inside the classroom.

Letter grade only (A-F).

401. The History of Los Angeles: Invention of a City — Honors (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation and upper-division status.

Interdisciplinary examination of the history of Los Angeles, one of the most diverse cities in the world. Traces the social, economic, and cultural features of Los Angeles's urban development from the eighteenth century to the present.

Letter grade only (A-F).

490. Selected Topics — Honors (3)

Identification and critical analysis of current problems in selected areas.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

496. Research Participation — Honors (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of program director and supervising faculty.

Independent research for the UHP senior thesis/project; conducted under the supervision of a faculty mentor and the program director.

Letter grade only (A-F).

497. Directed Studies — Honors (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of program director and supervising faculty.

Independent study under supervision of a faculty member.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.

498. Senior Thesis/Project — Honors (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of program director and supervising faculty.

Final completion of a thesis or a project; or an exhibit or a performance.

Letter grade only (A-F).