



Lake Erie College

Honors Program Handbook

Benefits

In addition to the **Honors designation** on the diploma and transcript, other benefits of participation in the Honors Program include: a tiered **Merit Scholarship** for every year in the Lake Erie Honors program; **priority registration** for every term after the first semester; special **research and social opportunities** with faculty; **Honors-only Special Topics classes**; and opportunities for internship and/or academic travel.

Admission Requirements

Students applying directly upon graduation from high school must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 and either a composite ACT score of 25 or higher **or** a composite SAT score of 1200 or higher.

Transfer students must have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher in their transfer courses and, if scores are available, either a composite ACT score of 25 or higher **or** a composite SAT score of 1200 or higher.

Students who meet the program's admission requirements will be sent a letter of invitation from the Director after they have applied to Lake Erie College.

General Requirements and Standards

A Lake Erie College Honors student must complete Honors-designated coursework as described below and participate in the Scholars' Summit, at which graduating seniors present a research or creative project completed under the direction of a faculty member of their choosing.

Students must complete a minimum of 19 credits of Honors course work (capstone work included).

LEC Honors students must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.5 or better to remain in the program and must have a GPA of 3.5 at the time of degree completion to earn the Honors notation on their transcript and diploma.

Unless AP credit or requirement waivers are granted, all CORE (General Education) requirements must be completed as outlined in the course catalog.

First-semester First-Years whose GPA falls below 3.5 will receive a warning that they must raise their overall GPA to 3.5 within one semester, or they will be placed on probationary status within the Honors program for one semester. If an overall GPA of 3.5 is not achieved at the end of that semester, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Second-semester First-Years, Sophomores, Juniors, and first-semester Seniors whose overall GPA falls below 3.5 will be granted one probationary semester to increase their GPA before being dismissed from the program. This means that two consecutive semesters with an overall GPA below 3.5 will result in dismissal from the program. An Honors student may not be placed on program probation more than twice. A third, non-consecutive semester in which a student's overall GPA drops below 3.5 will also lead to dismissal from the program.

Honors course offerings are designated as HON courses or as H sections, whereas non-Honors courses are designated as A, B, etc. Please be aware that not all courses are offered every semester.

Honors Coursework Requirements:

(minimum 19 total Honors credits)

✓ 11 credit-hours of required Honors coursework, consisting of:

Honors Critical Thinking

HON 125: Critical Thinking as a Habit of Mind (3) [every Fall]

Honors Public Speaking

CM 105H: Fundamentals of Public Speaking (3) [every Spring]

Honors Composition

EN 201H: Advanced College Writing (3) [every Fall]

2 Honors Seminars:

HON 201: "Vistas" Integrative Thinking Seminar (1) [every Fall]

HON 202: "Ventures" Experiential Learning Seminar (1) [every Spring, as of SP23]

✓ 6 credit-hours of elective Honors coursework, selected from the following:

Honors Special Topics (repeatable if different)

HON 270: At least one Honors Special Topics elective will be offered each semester (3)

Honors Science Elective (repeatable if different)

SCI 125H: Science in Society (3) [every Spring]

✓ 2-4 credit-hours of a Senior Capstone* & Presentation at Scholars' Summit**

* Honors students should register for HU 490: Senior Research Project if: their major does not require a Senior Capstone course; their Honors project goes beyond the scope of what is required for their Senior Capstone; or the content of their work is in an area outside their major and will therefore be overseen by a faculty member in that area.

****** This is a requirement for all seniors graduating from the Honors program; topic and scope determined in conjunction with the chosen faculty advisor. Students in the Honors Program are required to make a presentation of their research projects to the campus community at the annual Lake Erie College Scholars' Summit.

Substitutions: In certain circumstances (e.g., CCP, transfer, lateral admits), additional Honors special topics courses may be substituted for one or more of the required Honors courses, as approved by the Honors Director. A documented study abroad experience or internship may be substituted for the Ventures Seminar, as approved by the Honors Director. Successful completion of the Power-Up program (including creation and maintenance of an e-portfolio) may also be counted as substitutionary credit for the Ventures Seminar.

Capstone Guidelines

The senior capstone research is most often done in the student's major field of study. In majors where a capstone project is a requirement for graduation, that project may also be applied to the Honors Senior Capstone. Some students may become interested in pursuing and presenting research outside their major field of study, or beyond what they have done as a requirement for their major. Under these circumstances, the student must register for HU490 as an independent study under the advisor who will oversee their work. This course is also available for students in majors that don't have a formal senior research requirement or for students who would like Honors Research listed on their transcript.

Although there will be differences in the various disciplines, in general Honors students should be thinking about their projects in their junior year and considering which of their professors would be best suited to oversee their project.

At the end of the Spring semester of the senior year, students have the opportunity to present their findings to advisors, faculty, and peers at the Scholars' Summit. In order to ensure that students are on track for the Summit, they must submit a project proposal form (available at the end of this document), signed by their faculty advisor, no later than March 1 of their senior year to the Director of the Honors Program.

Students graduating in August or December are encouraged to be prepared to present their work in the May prior to their graduation date. Under some circumstances, these students may present their work in a smaller setting just prior to their graduation.

It is essential that students use the Scholars' Summit to present their *original* research or creative project. Questions about how to ensure scholarly integrity can be directed to the Director of the Honors Program, the student's own faculty advisor, or, if applicable, the Lake Erie College Institutional Review Board (IRB). Helpful guidance in this connection can also be found at the [Purdue OWL's](#) resource page on avoiding plagiarism and the [University of Indiana's](#) tutorial page on maintaining academic integrity. For scholars in the sciences, information on ethical research practices specific to that field can be found at the websites of [Northeastern University](#) and the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#).

Customize Your Program

If it is not possible for an Honors student to complete requirements as outlined above, they may request permission to customize their program. The process for doing this begins with contacting the Director of the Honors Program. In this letter or email to the Director, the student should outline the conflict and indicate their alternate plans. Alternate plans may include an extra project or experience outside of the CORE curriculum and may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Instructors of non-Honors sections may determine whether or not they are willing to oversee Honors work in non-Honors sections of a course. If an instructor is willing to accommodate an Honors student in their non-Honors course, the student must request that the instructor either sign their waiver request letter, or contact the Director of the Honors Program to indicate what accommodations are being made.

The Scholars' Summit presentation may not be waived.

Honors Course Cycle

Every Fall:

EN 201H Advanced College Writing

HON 125 Critical Thinking as a Habit of Mind

HON 201 "Vistas" Integrative Thinking Seminar

HON 270 Special Topics in Honors (at least one section; rotating elective)

Every Spring:

CM 105H Fundamentals of Public Speaking

SC 125H Science in Society (rotating topics, as determined by instructor)

HON 202 "Ventures" Experiential Learning Seminar (beginning in SP 2023)

HON 270 Special Topics in Honors (at least one section; rotating elective)



HONORS PROGRAM
at Lake Erie College

Honors Completion Checklist

Complete these courses (11 credit-hours):

- _____ HON 125: Critical Thinking as a Habit of Mind (3)
- _____ CM105 H Fundamentals of Public Speaking (3)
- _____ EN201 H Advanced College Writing (3)
- _____ HON 201: “Vistas” Integrative Thinking Seminar (1)
- _____ HON 202: “Ventures” Experiential Learning Seminar (1)

Complete at least 6 credit-hours from the following:

- _____ HON 270: Special Topics in Honors (3; repeatable if different)
- _____ SCI 125 H: Science in Society (3; repeatable if different)

Complete a Senior Capstone (2-4 credit-hours) and present at the Scholars’ Summit:

- _____ Capstone experience and Scholars’ Summit presentation



Lake Erie College Honors Program

Project Proposal Form

Please fill out this form in Word, then save the file in the format [LastName Project Proposal 2020-21] and email to astier@lec.edu.

Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Student Number: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Anticipated Graduation semester: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Estimated project start and completion dates: [Click here to enter text.](#) to [Click here to enter text.](#)

Is this project intended to count towards completion of the Honors Program Requirement entitled “Chart your Own Course”?

☐ Yes ☐ No Comments [Click here to enter text.](#)

Is this project intended to be used for the Senior Research Colloquium Presentation?

[You may answer yes to both questions.]

☐ Yes ☐ No Comments [Click here to enter text.](#)

Please outline your project proposal below. You may type in the box below, or cut and paste text from another source. It is fine to go on to multiple pages.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Approvals:

Digital signatures or email approvals are acceptable.

Student [Click here to enter text.](#) **Date** [Click here to enter text.](#)

Faculty Project Advisor(s) [Click here to enter text.](#) **Date** [Click here to enter text.](#)

Honors Director [Click here to enter text.](#) **Date** [Click here to enter text.](#)

Honors Director Notes: [Click here to enter text.](#)