



# Honors Advising: FAQ

## **Where should I go for Honors advising? Am I required to meet with an Honors advisor before registering for classes?**

It's always a good idea to begin with your regular faculty advisor. However, the Director of the Honors Program, Dr. Adam Stier ([astier@lec.edu](mailto:astier@lec.edu)), is also available for consultation. While it is not required that you meet with an Honors-specific advisor prior to registration, you are welcome to contact Dr. Stier with any questions you might have, or to schedule an appointment to discuss your progress in the program.

## **What are the Honors Program requirements?**

Program requirements can be found in the LEC Academic Catalog and the Honors Program Handbook (available on LEO). The requirements are also included at the end of this document for your convenience.

## **Where can I find a list of the Honors courses being offered?**

The Director of the Honors Program will email Honors students each semester, prior to Advising Week, in order to confirm the upcoming Honors courses. You may also inquire with the Registrar's Office. Here is the typical 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

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

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

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

**Are there opportunities to customize my program?**

Yes. Students may request permission to customize their program. The process for doing this begins with contacting the Director of the Honors Program. Alternate plans may include an extra project or experience outside the standard Honors curriculum; such exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For example, a documented experiential/service learning project, study abroad experience, or internship may be substituted for required Honors coursework, as approved by the Honors Director.

**Can I take a non-Honors course for Honors credit?**

It depends. Instructors have the final word as to whether or not they're willing to oversee Honors work in a non-Honors section of a course. (Often this "Honors work" takes the form of a supplemental assignment or learning experience.) If an instructor is willing to accommodate the Honors student in this way, the student, instructor, and Honors Director must all sign off upon the specific expectations prior to the beginning of the semester.

**Do I have to take an Honors course every semester?**

No—though, to ensure timely progress in the program, it's recommended that you strive to take two or more Honors courses each academic year.

**Do students who came in under the "old" Honors program need to meet the "new" program requirements?**

While students who entered the program in Fall 2020 or after must meet the revised Honors requirements as identified in this document, students who were already enrolled in the program as of Fall 2020 may choose between fulfilling the "old" or "new" program requirements. Any of the new Honors courses—for instance, HON 270, SC 125H, or HON 201—may be counted as substitutions for the outgoing Honors program requirements. Honors students should consult the Director of Honors if they have questions about specific substitutions or exceptions.

**I already took one of the required Honors CORE courses in its standard version (or I've already received transfer credit for one of the required Honors courses). What should I do?**

This is not an uncommon situation, especially for transfer students or laterally admitted students. In such cases, particular Honors course requirements may be waived (so that you needn't repeat a course)—but you'll still need to complete the total number of required Honors credits while at LEC. It may well be possible to make up these "lost" Honors credits via course substitutions or by customizing your

program. Please contact the Director of the Honors Program, as such situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Are HON 270 and SCI 125 repeatable?**

Yes, these courses may be repeated for Honors credit, so long as they take up distinct course themes or topics. If you have questions about specific sections, contact the Director of the Honors Program.

**Does HON 270 count toward my general education (CORE) requirements?**

Most sections of HON 270 will fulfill one CORE requirement, the specific category of which depends on the course topic, as this changes each semester. Please inquire with the Director of Honors if you're not sure about the CORE transferability of a particular HON 270 section.

**How do HON 201 and HON 202 work?**

Honors 201 ("Vistas") is a pass/fail, 1-credit-hour seminar in integrative thinking, offered each fall. Honors students are encouraged to take the Vistas seminar in their second year, though enrollment is open to all students in the program. Each section of HON 201 takes up a different theme and is taught by a team of 2-3 faculty members, enabling students to practice approaching a single subject from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. While HON 201 is a requirement of the new Honors program, students working under the "old" requirements may still take the seminar as an Honors course substitute.

Honors 202 ("Ventures") is a pass/fail, 1-credit-hour seminar in applied learning, offered each spring (beginning in 2023). Honors students are encouraged to take the Ventures seminar in their third year, though enrollment is open to all students in the program. While HON 202 is a requirement of the new Honors program, students working under the "old" requirements may still take the seminar as an Honors course substitute.

**What happens if my cumulative GPA drops below the required 3.5?**

With the exception of first-semester first-year students—who are permitted to remain on probation for up to two semesters—a student 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, aside from the allowance noted above, two consecutive semesters with an overall GPA below 3.5 will result in dismissal from the program.

**What if I want to leave the Honors program?**

A student may withdraw from the Honors program at any time, using the form available on LEO. Benefits accorded to Honors students will end at the time the student exits the program.

**What are the steps for participating in the Scholars' Summit?**

The Scholars' Summit, at which graduating Honors students present their original research project or creative work to the campus community, takes place annually in April. It is strongly recommended that Honors students have identified a faculty advisor and presentation topic—and been in contact with the Director of the Honors Program regarding these decisions—by the beginning of their senior year. For a more detailed account of this process, please consult the Honors Program Handbook, available on LEO.

**I'm an LEC student not currently in Honors. Can I join the program?**

Potentially, yes. An LEC student who's achieved a cumulative 3.5 GPA and whose candidacy has the support of an LEC faculty member may apply to join the Honors Program. To begin the application process, the student should contact the Director of Honors.

**Are Honors classes harder than regular classes? How are they different?**

It depends what you mean by "harder." LEC Honors classes don't necessarily require more work than the standard class—but they're absolutely meant to challenge you, in the same way that a good workout routine is tailored to the individual it stands to benefit. Through "high-impact" teaching practices (workshops, seminar-style and/or project-based courses, undergraduate research, etc.), LEC Honors coursework provides students with opportunities to stretch themselves—to take their path to the peak.

## **"New" Honors Coursework Requirements**

(for students who entered the program Fall 2020 or after)

✓ **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**

## **"Old" Honors Coursework Requirements\***

(for students who entered the program before Fall 2020)

\*Please note: in order to accommodate current students during this transition, any of the new Honors courses, including HON 201 and HON 202, may be counted as substitutes for the courses listed below.

### **Scholars must take all three (3) of these courses:**

- HU 125 H Critical Thinking Through Controversy (3 SH)
- CM105 H Fundamentals of Public Speaking (3 SH)
- EN201 H Advanced College Writing (3 SH)

### **Scholars must choose to do Honors work in three (3) of the following courses:**

- PS101 H General Psychology (3 SH)
- PR 111 H Issues in Western Culture (3 SH)
- IS 200 H Peoples and Cultures in Contrast (3 SH)
- PO 110 American National Government (3 SH)
- AT110 H Drawing I (3 SH)
- TH104 H Introduction to Theater (3 SH)
- BI 101 H/BI 101L H (lecture and lab) Introductory Biology I (4SH)

**Scholars must identify one (1) course within their major** in which they will do Honors work. The details of this work will be outlined in conjunction with the instructor of that course and approved by the Honors Director.

**Senior Capstone within the Scholar's Major (2-4 SH) OR HU 490 Senior Research Project, Honors (2-4 SH)**