



Honors Scholars Program
Randall Library
910-962-4181
honors@uncw.edu
<http://www.uncw.edu/honors>

The UNCW Honors Scholars Program is a 4-year academic enrichment program that offers unique opportunities for students in any major.

Mission: The Honors Scholars Program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington provides academically talented students with innovative and unique educational experiences. The program encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and independent work skills by offering exciting academic and cultural activities as well as the opportunity for close working and social relationships with the faculty.

Curriculum

- *Honors Sections of Basic Studies Classes:* Students are required to complete 4 of their 15 basic studies requirements at honors level. Examples: Honors Cell Biology, Honors Oceanography, Honors English, Honors Literature, Honors PE, Honors Ethics...
- *Honors Freshman Seminar:* Introduction to the university, plus focus on critical study of a theme, such as Medical Ethics, Crafting Visual Identity, Evolution of Behavior, Literature & Exploration, Darwin & Modern Culture, Seeking the Truth.
- *Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar:* Students complete one. Examples: Family, Culture, Travel: Reading & Writing Memoir, Brazilian Culture, Science in Contemporary Drama and Literature
- *Honors Experiential Learning Seminars:* Students complete two. Examples: Animals and Society, Digital Photography, Survey of Nursing, Survey of Business Research, Leadership, Becoming a Global Citizen, and “International Splashes”- seminars that include short study abroad.
- *Senior Honors Project:* Mentored independent research or scholarly activity in the major, culminating in a presentation and formal project presentation.

Characteristics of Fall 2009 Honors freshman class

- 125 students about 6% of the incoming freshman class)
- 1300 (Critical Reading/Math) average SAT (29 ACT). Please note this is an average only; students with higher and lower SAT are in the program.
- 3.9 or higher average weighted high school GPA . Please note this is an average only; students with higher and lower GPA are in the program.
- Most in top 20% or higher of graduating class
- Most have taken several AP, honors, and/or dual-enrolled classes while in high school
- Excel in academics with demanding schedule
- Evidence of leadership and service
- Many are student-athletes- three are varsity athletes at UNCW
- About 2/3 female
- About 1/3 from out of state

Application procedure

1. Apply to UNCW
2. There is a separate application for the Honors program on Honors web site, www.uncw.edu/honors
3. Anyone may apply. Students do not have to be invited to apply to Honors; however, we will send invitations to apply based on high SAT and GPA.
4. An Honors faculty-student team reviews applications, and considers the applicant as “more than the sum of the numbers”. While GPA and SAT are important, we will also review the applicant’s essay, resume, and letter of recommendation from teacher (please have a letter from a teacher, not employer, friend, etc).
5. Decisions are made on a rolling basis, but we can not act on the Honors application until UNCW acts on UNCW application. We encourage all applicants to Honors to submit applications by April 15, and students who want to be considered for merit scholarships should apply to Honors by March 1.
6. The application for Honors merit scholarships is included on the Honors application.
7. Waiting list: if not accepted for fall, can apply for spring admission to Honors.

Note: Transfer student applications to Honors are accepted, using the same application form.

Please come visit Honors when you visit UNCW. You can request an Honors tour/class visitation on line at www.uncw.edu/honors .

Housing

- Honors is a living and learning community- living in the same residence hall encourages community, facilitates academic success. Students overlap in many classes.
- To foster community among the Honors students living on campus, Honors freshmen are automatically assigned to Honors Housing unless they are Teaching Fellows or varsity athletes.
- Students report positively on the value of the Honors residential experience and are involved in much of the programming with the Tri-House residential community.
- Honors Mentors are available to the new freshmen to facilitate success in college.

Some Benefits of the Honors Program

- Small classes (typically 20 or fewer)
- Close interactions with faculty develop from the first semester
- Academic advising by Honors faculty members for first two years of college
- High student engagement: on average 90% of first year Honors Scholars return to UNCW as sophomores.
- Priority registration for optimal courses and class times
- Merit scholarship consideration
- Explore involvement in undergraduate research opportunities from the first semester
- Field trips/co-curricular activities
- Tickets to cultural events on campus and in Wilmington
- Honors House community
- Student-student community: Student Honors Advisory Board & Honors Scholars Association
- Honors International Splashes offered every year- short study abroad trips connected with an honors seminar
- Honors semester in Swansea, Wales, offered every spring semester
- Honors Director is a past president of the National Collegiate Honors Council.