



UT Tyler™

HONORS  
COLLEGE

## The University of Texas at Tyler Honors College 2024-2025 Handbook

**Mission Statement:** The Honors College at the University of Texas at Tyler provides specialized content and programming for high achieving and intellectually curious students at our university. Academically, the program emphasizes small, unique courses with engaged faculty and rigorous undergraduate research. The Honors College is made up of a motivated community of students that reflect the population and people of the East Texas region.

**Vision Statement:** The Honors College at the University of Texas at Tyler aspires to be the campus and regional leader in academic rigor by providing challenging and stimulating educational opportunities to the highest achieving and most intellectually curious students at our university and in the East Texas region. We aim to be a nationally recognized Honors College that is deeply invested in our community and campus. We seek to provide unique curriculum, programming, and opportunities for our students and the university at large.

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**Introduction:** The Honors College at the University of Texas at Tyler provides specialized content and programming for high achieving and intellectually curious students at our university. Academically, the program emphasizes small, unique courses with engaged faculty and rigorous undergraduate research. The Honors College is made up of a motivated community of students that reflect the population and people of the East Texas region.

Students who complete the Honors College curriculum will earn a special Honors designation on their final transcript. This distinction will reflect each student's enriched studies and accomplishments as a UT Tyler undergraduate. Because of their enhanced collegiate experience, graduates of the Honors College are highly sought after by employers and graduate schools.

The UT Tyler Honors College is open to students from all majors. If you are a high school senior interested in the Honors College, please see the incoming freshmen application under the "Apply" section of the website. If you are a current UT Tyler student interested in the Honors College,

please see the current student application, and if you are a transfer student, please see the transfer student application.

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**Curriculum:** The curriculum of the UT Tyler Honors College consists of academic requirements through all four years of the college experience. All students who join the Honors College as a first-year student are required to take HNRS 1351 and HNRS 1352, without exception. All students in the Honors College are required to participate in at least one Honors academic experience each semester. This could be a credited class (e.g. HNRS 1351, HNRS 2351), an Honors section of a core class (e.g. MATH 1342.029 – honors statistics), an Honors in the Major class (e.g. PSYC 4381), or Honors track work (Research or Service & Leadership). Honors in the Major courses and track work are reserved for students who have begun upper division coursework in their major.

Without exception, all students in the Honors College must complete an Honors Senior Project during the last year of their undergraduate degree, and they must present their project at the Lyceum. Students on the Research Track must also present their work at one additional academic conference or submit their work for publication.

**World, Text, Image I-IV (HNRS 1351, 1352, 2351, 2352):** This series of interdisciplinary humanities courses introduce students to the root academic values of the Honors College. HNRS 1351 and HNRS 1352 are required for all freshman honors students during their first year, without exception. These two courses are team-taught and comprise a yearlong investigation into what it means to be human through a study of the history of civilization, philosophical thought, art, political theory, and literature. HNRS 2351 and 2352 complete the World, Text, Image series of courses through focuses on communication and creative expression. The Honors College recommends all honors students complete all four World, Text, Image courses as part of their degree plan. All four courses satisfy Core Curriculum requirements for all degree plans at UT Tyler.

**Honors Sections of Other Core Classes:** The Honors College also offers honors sections of several additional Core Curriculum courses including Texas Politics (POLS 2306), Microeconomics (ECON 2302), Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1301), Statistics (MATH 1342), Calculus I and II (HNRS 2413 and HNRS 2414) and rotating non-major Biology and Chemistry courses (BIOL 1330 and CHEM 1350). Honors students are strongly encouraged to take the honors sections of these courses to complete their Core Curriculum.

**Upper-Division Honors Tracks:** During the last four semesters of their academic degree plan, all honors students will declare an Honors Track to focus their honors academic work. Students in Nursing and Psychology (depending on departmental availability) will participate in specialized Honors in the Major courses in their department with other honors students. Students in all other majors can choose from one of the following tracks: Research or Service & Leadership. These tracks allow students to focus on individual research, service, or leadership projects that enhance their major coursework and develop their personalized academic interests. Honors students can expect to spend 15-20 hours each semester on work for their chosen track.

**Honors Senior Project:** All tracks culminate in the completion of an Honors Senior Project. During the last two semesters of their degree plan, all honors students will work on and complete a year-long project that encapsulates their upper-division track focus. This project will allow honors students to work independently with faculty, staff, or an off-campus mentor in their major area to develop this project, and publicly present their final work before graduation. Requirements are dependent on track:

- Students on the Research Track, in collaboration with their faculty mentors, must present their projects at an outside conference or submit a manuscript of their project for a peer-reviewed publication.
- Students on the Service & Leadership Track must complete a self-guided service or leadership event before graduation.

All senior honors students must present their Honors Senior Project at Lyceum.

**Honors Zero-Credit Seminars:** Each semester, junior and senior-level honors students are required to enroll in a zero-credit seminar course to complete their track work: HNRS 3000 for juniors, HNRS 4000 for seniors. These online seminar courses are designed to promote college engagement and to help students keep up with due dates. Students must keep up with seminar requirements to receive credit for these courses.

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**Honors Events and Experiential Learning:** In addition to academic requirements listed above, all honors students must participate in a designated number of experiential events each semester to remain in good standing in the Honors College. Honors events are broken down into three main categories: Colloquia (required large scale events designed to expand students' knowledge beyond campus and the region), Symposia (smaller scale optional events that aim to provide a deeper dive into specific majors, careers, or local features), and Community Events (optional events planned by students in the Honors College for community building and to provide service to the campus and region).

Though the four Honors Colloquia are required each semester, we understand that students may have to miss an event for any variety of reasons. Pre-approved make-up events will be listed in each edition of the weekly Dispatch email. Students may attend any make-up event that fits their schedule and must send a 100-word description of their make-up to K'Lin Noble ([knoble@uttyler.edu](mailto:knoble@uttyler.edu)) by the last day of classes each semester. For additional details please see <https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/colleges-schools/honors/colloquia/>

**Lyceum:** Each spring semester, the Honors College hosts The Lyceum—a student research showcase open to all undergraduate and graduate students on campus. All honors students are required to attend The Lyceum each year as either an attendee or presenter for colloquium credit, and all senior honors students must present their Honors Senior Project at Lyceum before graduation. Administrators, faculty, and staff are also invited as attendees, judges, and

moderators. Students graduating in the fall may present at the Fall Lyceum, held each November to satisfy their Lyceum presentation requirement for graduation.

**Living Learning Community:** Incoming honors freshmen have the opportunity to live with other first-year honors students in a designated residence hall wing on campus during their first year on campus. This Living Learning Community (LLC) is led by an honors student RA and has special honors-focused residential programming. The LLC provides freshmen students with more opportunities to build relationships with fellow honors students.

**LOGOS:** LOGOS is the student group associated with the Honors College at UT Tyler and is intended to enhance a student's overall experience within the Honors College. They aim to foster a community of intellectuals through academic, service, and social events. The group works with the Honors College at UT Tyler to provide learning opportunities open to all Honors students.

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**Scholarships and Financial Assistance:** Your application to the Honors College also serves as application for either the Honors Scholars Scholarship or the Honors Endowed Scholarship. All students in the Honors College are awarded one of these two scholarships.

**Incoming Freshmen:** First-semester freshman students invited to join the Honors College are eligible to receive one of two scholarships: the \$10,000 per year Honors Scholars Scholarship or the \$2,000 per year Honors Endowed Scholarship, both renewable for four years. Renewal of the scholarship is contingent on the honors student maintaining good standing in the Honors College.

**Current UT Tyler students and Transfer students:** Current UT Tyler students and transfer students invited to join the Honors College are eligible to receive the \$2,000 per year Honors Endowed Scholarship, renewable for up to three years. Renewal of the scholarship is contingent on the Honors student maintaining good standing in the Honors College.

Students in the Honors College enjoy priority registration. This allows students, regardless of the number of credit hours, to register with senior-level students.

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**Maintaining Good Standing in the Honors College:** In order to remain a member of the Honors College, students must remain in good standing with the College.

Good standing is defined as:

- Enroll in and complete HNRS 1351 and HNRS 1352 during the fall and spring of the freshman year

- Enroll in at least one Honors credited course every fall and spring semester before beginning your Honors Track
- During the final four semesters, enroll in an Honors seminar course (e.g. HNRS 3000 or 4000)
- Complete four semesters of your chosen Honors Track through specified projects for your track
- Attend required Honors Colloquium events each semester
- Complete your Honors Senior Project and present the project at the Lyceum (*N.B.* Students on the Research Track must also present at an outside conference or submit a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal)
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2

Students will be removed from the Honors College and will lose their Honors scholarship for any of the following reasons:

- A student does not enroll in and complete HNRS 1351 or HNRS 1352
- A student does not enroll in at least one Honors credited course each fall and spring semester before they begin their Honors Track
- A student consistently does not attend Honors required events
- A student consistently does not complete the assignments for HNRS 3000 or 4000
- A student does not complete the requirements for their Honors Track at any point in the two- year process
- A student does not complete their Honors Senior Project or does not present their project at Lyceum
- A student is not in good standing with the University or Judicial Affairs
- A student is caught plagiarizing work or cheating, regardless of whether that work is for Honors or not

**Probation:** An honors student whose cumulative GPA drops below 3.2 will be placed on probation. The student has one semester to raise the GPA to 3.0 or above, and a second semester to get the GPA to 3.2 or above. A student who does not get their GPA to 3.2 or above after 2 semesters may be dismissed from the Honors College.

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**Contact Information:**

UT Tyler Honors College website: [www.uttyler.edu/honors](http://www.uttyler.edu/honors)

General questions, please email: [honors@uttyler.edu](mailto:honors@uttyler.edu)

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