



HONORS
PROGRAM

Student Handbook

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Greetings!

Welcome to the Honors Program at the University of Montevallo! We offer motivated, curious, and civic-minded students specially designed academic offerings, co-curricular activities, and recognition.

Each semester, Honors students choose from a range of exciting courses from a variety of disciplines. Some of these courses are special Honors-designated sections of introductory courses that are designed to fulfill general education requirements. Upper-level Honors courses are intended to supplement major coursework and consist of seminars on a myriad of topics.

In addition to Honors courses, students have opportunities to attend sponsored cultural events and activities both on and off-campus. Other benefits of being in the Honors Program include Honors housing, Honors common areas, funding for academic conferences, and priority registration. Additionally, Honors students are recognized for their achievements at special occasions throughout the academic year.

When students successfully complete 18 Honors credit hours, they are awarded an Honors certificate. Upon successfully completing 26 hours of Honors credit, students are awarded the University Honors Diploma and have a designation noted on their transcript that recognizes their participation in the Honors Program—for the purpose of alerting prospective employers and graduate schools to the quality and extent of their work. They will also receive Honors medallions to wear at graduation and be recognized in the Commencement Program.

My goal is to help Honors students reach their potential as engaged and enlightened leaders, scholars, and citizens. I hope the Honors Program helps you reach your own goals during your time at Montevallo.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Walker

Jeff Walker, Ph.D.
Director, UM Honors Program

Faculty Insight

Insights about what distinguishes Honors students and classes from other students and classes.

“I have noticed that Honors students tend to have a strong passion for their chosen field of study, a high level of intellectual curiosity, and eclectic interests... Additionally, I love the esprit de corps that develops within my Honors classes through shared experiences...”

~ Dr. Tiffany Wang

“Ideally, Honors students are more intellectually curious and academically motivated, and their Honors classes help cultivate life-long learning in a more intimate setting with full-time professors who can challenge them to explore and synthesize topics in greater depth.”

~ Dr. Cathlena Martin

“I find the students to be more motivated and better prepared for college than the typical student. The classes are more open to discussion and the interchange of ideas.”

~ Dr. Robert Barone

“The flexibility of intellectual engagement is often a difference; it’s great to be able to count on an enthusiastic engagement with whatever wild approach or material we dream up for Honors students!”

~ Dr. James Murphy

“The classes tend to be smaller, permitting much more individual instruction and cooperative learning. The students tend to be better prepared and more motivated, which also improves the learning environment in general.”

~ Dr. Michael Sterner

“Honors students hear voices. They engage with intellectual and cultural ideas not simply as fact-gatherers, but as perceivers of critical voice—of opinion, tone, bias, and agenda... Through the Honors classroom, students and faculty come together to develop their own voices in dialogues of mutual intellectual growth.”

~ Dr. Joseph Sargent

“Honors classes are all about bringing together a community of people who love learning for its own sake and take an adventurous approach to their education... The distinction of an Honors class is thus less about getting better grades than it is about opening a space for experimenting with ideas and approaches to a host of intellectual and social challenges.”

~ Dr. Alexander Beringer

“The smaller class size and the population of students in the classroom create a comfortable environment for learning. Students are excited to participate in discussions and offer incredible insights. Instructors approach material in a new way and are enthused by the involvement. It’s a great experience for everyone!”

~ Dr. Christine Sestero

Student Advice

Former Honors students answer, “What do you wish you had known?”

“I wish I had known **how beneficial a four-year plan would be**. After completing my plan, so much stress was lifted off my shoulders because I knew how my future was going to look for the next couple of years. I also wish I knew the importance of balancing social life and schooling.”

“I wish I had known to **keep an organized list of assignments and due dates** with me. I use my calendar a lot for events, social time, and class times. I wish I made an alternate calendar specifically for homework and tests because having so many classes and different assignment types make it hard to keep track.”

“I wish I had known that **everything truly would be OK**. I came to college feeling pretty anxious and unsure about a lot of things. Would I make friends? Did I choose the right major? Was UM the best place for me? I had all kinds of worries and doubts, but everything worked out so well...”

“I wish I had known how helpful **studying away from my dorm** would be. I found that taking the time to study and complete work in a new location such as the library creates a much larger window for focus and concentration.”

“I wish I had understood the **difficulties of time management**. With high school, classes were at a set time and there were authority figures to keep things in line. With college, all of the pressure is on you, and finding a balance between each aspect of your life is very difficult without the unavoidable structure of high school.

“I wish I had known that **I can’t make everyone happy** (I tend to be a ‘people pleaser’). I’m still learning how to balance everything out but there are some days where I had to cancel plans with friends/family or haven’t been able to help others due to schoolwork or religious obligations.”

“There are two things that I wish I had known: The first is that **you shouldn’t be afraid to reach out to your professors**, they are there to help you. The second is that it is alright not to get an A; honors students are used to getting A’s and we tend to overreact when we don’t get them. It is okay to get a B.”

“I wish I had known **it is OK to realize things may not go as planned**. My plans have changed significantly since my first day here, and that is OK.”

Definition of Status

Active

Active status means that the Honors student has met any and all requirements to stay current in the program. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- maintaining an overall GPA of 3.2 or higher, and
- taking at least ONE Honors course annually.

Perks of staying active include (but are not limited to):

- after-hours swipe card access to the Ramsay study lounge
- priority registration (registering for courses with seniors), and
- priority housing at the Honors Residence Hall, Ramsay Hall (as available).

Inactive

Inactive means that the student failed to take an Honors course within a year, but still maintained their GPA. To regain active status, a student must take another Honors course and then let the Honors Program Director know that their status should be changed to “active” via email (honors@montevallo.edu). Inactive students lose Honors privileges, but regain them once they become active again.

Probation

A student is placed on *Probation* for one semester if their GPA drops below a 3.2. The student can still sign up for Honors courses and will retain all other Honors benefits. This is essentially a warning semester.

- If the student’s GPA rises to or above 3.2 the following semester, they will regain active status.
- If the student’s GPA does not increase to at least a 3.2, they will be suspended from the Honors Program.

Suspended

A student is *Suspended* from the Honors Program when their GPA is below a 3.2 for two consecutive semesters. The student loses all Honors privileges and may not register for Honors courses.

- If a student raises their GPA to or above 3.2 again and wishes to be reinstated, they should email honors@montevallo.edu.

Students will be notified via e-mail of all status changes.

A Few Honors Benefits



Priority Registration

Active Honors students may participate in *priority registration*—which means that no matter a student's class rank, they may register with seniors each semester. In order to participate, students must first meet with their major advisor and be cleared in the system.

Travel Grants

Honors students who have earned the Honors certificate may apply for a travel grant to support participation at an academic conference or professional development event. Grants in the amount of up to \$500 are awarded as long as funding is available. Documentation of all expenses is required for reimbursement. A travel expense budget must be uploaded to the online application. This budget may include registration fees, hotels costs, meals, and transportation expenses.

To apply for a travel grant, complete an application at <http://montevallo.edu/honors>



A Peer Mentor Program

The Honors Program pairs first-year students with returning Honors students who provide guidance, coaching, and community. Peer mentors help lead Honors Orientation and HNRS 101: Honors First Year Seminar. Peer mentors may also hold office hours and plan other community-building events and activities.

Honors Events

The Honors Program hosts a variety of cultural outings and social events throughout the year. Events have included pizza and Kona Ice parties, holiday mixers, poetry readings, and game nights. Trips have included seeing a production at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery and traveling to the McWane Science Center in Birmingham.



Trip to see *As You Like It* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Benefits: Carmichael Library

As a student in the Honors Program, you receive the following benefits in the Carmichael library:

- Increase in the number of books you may check out (35 items)
- Length of time you can have those books (8 weeks with 1 renewal, so potentially 16 weeks)
- Honors-specific library seminars and research workshops

The screenshot shows the Carmichael Library website for the University of Montevallo. The header is dark purple with the university logo and navigation links: Library, Research, Services, About Us, and Archives. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: Carmichael Library / LibGuides / Research Guides / Honors Program / Home. The main heading is "Honors Program: Home". There are three tabs: Home (selected), Carmichael Library, and Citation Help. The content is organized into three columns. The left column has a "Group Study Room" section with text about reserving a room and a link to "Reserve the Group Study Room", and a "Facebook" section with text about liking the page and a link to "Honors Program at the University of Montevallo". The middle column has a "Honors Program" section with the university logo, text about opportunities, a link to "Dr. Jeff Walker", and links to "Honors Program" and "Honors Housing". The right column has a "Montevallo Honors Organization" section with text about the MHO.

UNIVERSITY of MONTEVALLO

Library Research Services About Us Archives

Carmichael Library / LibGuides / Research Guides / Honors Program / Home

Honors Program: Home

Home Carmichael Library Citation Help

Group Study Room

Need a study room for your Honors group? Reserve the Group Study Room located on the main floor of the Carmichael Library.

- [Reserve the Group Study Room](#)

Facebook

Like the Honors Program on Facebook to find out what's going on in the program.

- [Honors Program at the University of Montevallo](#)

Honors Program

The Honors Program at the University of Montevallo offers several wonderful opportunities for students. If you are interested, please contact [Dr. Jeff Walker](#), Director of the Honors Program.

- [Honors Program](#)
- [Honors Housing](#)

Montevallo Honors Organization

The Montevallo Honors Organization (MHO) is the student-led organization affiliated with the Honors Program. MHO plans and organizes social and

Access the Honors Program Carmichael Library Guide at:

<https://library.montevallo.edu/honors>

Honors Housing

Creating a Living-Learning Community

Ramsay Hall is home to the Honors Program. In the basement is the Honors student lounge which includes a study area, a mini-library, board games, and a TV. On the first floor is the Honors classroom. The top two floors are residential levels exclusively for Honors students.



Ramsay Hall includes the following:

- Double rooms and private baths
- Coeducational housing
- A study room/lounge in the basement
- The Honors Program office on the first floor
- Space on the first floor for meetings, MHO, group study, and Honors events
- Honors computers



Honors students have the privilege of early move-in one day prior to general student move-in.

Rooms in Ramsay vary in size and shape.

To be eligible to live on these Honors floors, one must be an Active member of the Honors Program. ***To apply for these rooms, please check “Honors Student” on your Residence Hall application.*** Housing assignments for new residents are made based on the date the housing application is received. Applying early increases your chance of receiving your hall and/or roommate preference. For more information, please visit the housing webpage at <https://www.montevallo.edu/campus-life/housing-residence-life/honors-housing/> or contact Housing & Residence Life at 205-665-6235.

Housing Application

When applying for housing, be prepared to rank your residence hall preferences and complete a brief survey to assist with roommate matching. If you are requesting a roommate, you may provide that information on the application:

<http://www.montevallo.edu/campus-life/housing-residence-life/>



Montevallo Honors Organization

The mission of the **Montevallo Honors Organization (MHO)** is to bring lifelong learners together in a manner that enriches both their own lives and that of members of the community.

MHO seeks to fulfill this mission by holding regular meetings, organizing social events for MHO members as well as joint events with other student organizations, and collecting resources for the community.



MONTEVALLO HONORS ORGANIZATION



Specialized Honors Courses

Each semester Honors students have the opportunity to take a variety of specialized classes.

General education Honors courses are specific sections of general education courses, such as World History or World Literature, for Honors students that substitute for standard general education course.

HNRS 308 is a one-credit hour colloquium course that follows the "Special Topics" model of course design. HNRS 308 is generally only open to Honors students.

Upper-Level Honors courses are seminars that follow the "Special Topics" model of course design and are generally cross-listed.



The **Honors First-Year Seminar (HNRS 101)** is a three-credit hour class for entering Honors freshman to take in their first fall semester. It will provide an introduction both to the Honors Program and the University of Montevallo. It counts as a first-year seminar course like UM 101.

Honors Program classes foster a participatory learning environment and use diverse methods of assessment to recognize student learning.

Students must earn an "A" or "B" in a course for it to count for Honors credit. To remain active, at least one Honors course must be taken each year.

To graduate with the Honors Diploma, a student must complete either the **Golson Seminar**, an **Honors Internship**, or an **Honors Thesis**.

The **Golson Seminar (HNRS 400)** is the Honors capstone course, and one of the three options required of all Honors students wishing to graduate with the Honors diploma. The course focuses on preparing students for their goals after graduation.



The **Honors Thesis (HNRS 490)** and **Honors Internship (HNRS 475)** are opportunities for students to propose and carry out research, projects, and/or hands-on experiences. These may be combined with a senior seminar in their major. The Honors Program Director and advising major professor must grant approval before registration

Honors Checksheet



UNIVERSITY of MONTEVALLO
HONORS PROGRAM

Student Name: _____

Honors Program Checksheet

General Education Honors Courses

These courses are taken primarily during your freshman and sophomore years.

Not all courses are offered every semester.

HNRS 101 (Fall – Freshmen only)	_____ (3 hours)
COMS 102 (Usually every semester)	_____ (3 hours)
ENG 103 (Fall)	_____ (3 hours)
ENG 104 (Spring)	_____ (3 hours)
ENG 233 (Fall)	_____ (3 hours)
ENG 234 (Spring)	_____ (3 hours)
HIST 103 (Fall)	_____ (3 hours)
HIST 104 (Spring)	_____ (3 hours)
PHIL 111 (Occasionally offered)	_____ (3 hours)
PHIL 221 (Occasionally offered)	_____ (3 hours)
BIO 107 (Occasionally offered)	_____ (4 hours)
MATH 155 (Occasionally offered)	_____ (3 hours)
MUS 122 (Occasionally offered)	_____ (3 hours)
PSYC 202 (Occasionally offered)	_____ (3 hours)
SOC 102 (Occasionally offered)	_____ (3 hours)
THEA 122 (Occasionally offered)	_____ (3 hours)

Recognition

Honors Certificate: Successful completion of 18 hours of Honors courses qualifies you for the Honors Certificate. You will receive a physical certificate upon completion of the requirements.

Honors Diploma: Successful completion of 26 hours of Honors courses, including a capstone course (HNRS 400, HNRS 475, or HNRS 490), qualifies you for the Honors Diploma. The Honors Diploma is noted on your transcript and at graduation.

Note: Students must earn an A or B in an Honors-designated course in order for it to count towards the Honors Certificate and/or Diploma. Additionally, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of a 3.2 or above to receive the Honors Certificate and/or Diploma.

Special Topics Honors Courses

Most of these courses may be taken any time you fulfill the pre-requisite for an individual class.

HNRS 308 (varied topics maybe repeated)

Course title: _____ (1 hour)

Course title: _____ (1 hour)

Course title: _____ (1 hour)

“H” Section Courses (varied topics maybe repeated)

Course title: _____ (1-4 hours)

Course title: _____ (1-4 hours)

Course title: _____ (1-4 hours)

Course title: _____ (1-4 hours)

Capstone Honors Courses

These courses, typically taken during your junior or senior years, are options to complete the capstone requirement of the Honors Diploma. While you are only required to take one capstone option, you may choose to take others for general Honors credit.

HNRS 400 (Golson Seminar) (Spring) _____ (1 hour)

HNRS 475 (Honors Internship) _____ (0-6 hours)

The internship must be approved prior to registering and can combine with a departmental internship or Falcon Scholars in Action. See Dr. Walker.

HNRS 490 (Honors Thesis) _____ (0-6 hours)

The Thesis must be approved prior to registering and can combine with UR or major thesis. Varied topics maybe repeated. See Dr. Walker.

Total Hours Completed: _____

Total Hours Required: 26

*Capstone completed: _____ | YES | NO

Special Notes:

See Bulletin for full explanation of program requirements and course descriptions

Requirements for Recognition

Honors Certificate: Successful completion with an “A” or “B” of 18 hours of Honors courses qualifies you for the **Honors Certificate**.

Honors Diploma: Successful completion with an “A” or “B” of 26 hours of HNRS courses, including the Golson Seminar (HNRS 400), the Honors Thesis (HNRS 490), or the Honors Internship (HNRS 475), while maintaining a 3.2 or above GPA, qualifies you for the **Honors Diploma**, which will be noted on your transcript as well as in the Commencement Program at graduation. You will also be recognized with a physical certificate at Honors Day in the Spring and **Honors Medallion** to wear at graduation.



Reminder: To remain active, at least one Honors course must be taken each year and you must retain a 3.2 GPA overall.

Expectations

As a member and representative of the UM Honors Program, you are expected:

- To conduct yourself as a respectful and responsible citizen
- To purport yourself as an academically engaged student, maintaining at least a 3.2 GPA and consistently registering for at least one Honors course a year
- To engage fully in your collegiate endeavors, making the most of your time at UM
- To support the Honors Program and attend not only mandatory meetings, but also participate in events, workshops, and outings hosted by the Honors Program
- To read Honors communications, whether in email, newsletter, or social media form
- To understand the requirements for completing the Honors diploma
- To graduate with Honors!



Honors Communication

Email honors@montevallo.edu

Website montevallo.edu/honors

Facebook facebook.com/honorsum

Instagram instagram.com/umhonors



Dr. Jeff Walker

Honors Program Director

University of Montevallo

Honors Program

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