



Lake Erie College Honors Program Handbook 2017-18

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 Scholars program; priority registration for every term after the first semester; special research and social opportunities with faculty; special internship opportunities and special regional academic travel options.

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 1720 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 1720 or higher. A student who is transferring in (and does not intend to retake) two or more of the Core Requirements, as outlined below, is not eligible for the Honors Program.

Students who meet the program's admission requirements will be sent a letter of invitation and an application from the Director after they have applied to Lake Erie College. The application requests basic personal information and the composition of a 500-word essay on one of a selection of topics.

General Requirements and Standards

An LEC Scholar must complete honors sections of courses as outlined below and participate in the Senior Research Colloquium, in which novel work is presented (see below for details).

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

Students who apply as freshmen must complete 26-28 credits of Honors course work. Transfer students must complete a minimum of 18-20 credits of Honors course work, including the Freshman Honors Seminar and Senior Capstone. Their particular requirements may be determined on a case-by-case basis.

LEC Scholars 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.

First-semester Freshman Scholars 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 Scholars 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 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and first-semester Senior Scholars 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. A Scholar may not be placed on program probation more than twice. A third, non-consecutive semester in which a Scholar's overall GPA drops below 3.5 will also lead to dismissal from the program.

Requirements

A Lake Erie College Honors Scholar must take Honors designated sections of courses as described below and participate in the Senior Research Colloquium, where they will present a research project done under the direction of a faculty member of their choosing. Unless AP credit or other means of waiving requirements are granted, honors program students must fulfill all other basic proficiencies in the general education core, with the exception of EN 101. Lake Erie Scholars must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.5 or better.

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

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, which will be offered in regular rotation (details are contained in this document):

- 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)
- Chart Your Own Course Option: One of the three (3) required courses may be replaced by an approved academic experience, identified by the scholar and approved by both their academic advisor and the Director of the Honors Program. This can be an extra internship, volunteer experience, conference attendance, or project. Scholars may apply for funding through the Honors Program to defray costs incurred.

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.

Capstone Experience*

Senior Capstone within the Scholar's Major (2-4 SH)

OR HU 490 Senior Research Project, Honors (2-4 SH)**

*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 Research Colloquium**.

** Honors students should register for this course 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; the content of their work is in an area outside their major and will therefore be overseen by a faculty member in that area.

Capstone Guidelines

The senior capstone research is most often done in the Scholars' major field of study. In majors where a capstone project is a requirement for graduation, this project may also be applied to the Honors Senior Capstone. Scholars have the opportunity to formally present at the Honors Program Research Colloquium in the Spring semester of the senior year.

Some Scholars 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 Scholar must register for HU490 as an independent study under the advisor who will oversee their work. This course is also available for Scholars in majors that don't have a formal senior research requirement or for Scholars who would like Honors Research listed on their transcript.

Although there will be differences in the various disciplines, in general, Scholars should be thinking about their projects in their junior years and considering who among their professors would be best suited to oversee their independent research. That professor should be approached with ideas to start the feedback process and to ensure that that professor is willing and able to oversee the project.

At the end of the Spring semester, Scholars have the opportunity to present their findings to advisors, professors, and peers at the Honors Program Research Colloquium. In order to ensure that Scholars are on track for the Research Colloquium, by March 1st of the senior year, they will submit a form (at the end of this document) to the Director of the Scholars Program summarizing their research project plan and signed by their project advisor.

Scholars 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 Scholars may present their work in a smaller setting just prior to their graduation.

Customize your Program

If it is not possible for a Scholar to complete requirements as outlined above, a Scholar 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 Scholar 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 a Scholar in their non-Honors course, the Scholar must request that the instructor either sign their waiver request letter, or contact the Director of the Scholars Program to indicate what accommodations are being made.

The Senior Research Colloquium Presentation may not be waived.



Honors Completion Checklist

Complete 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)

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)

_____ Chart Your Own Course Option

_____ **Identify one (1) course within your major**

_____ Capstone Experience and Senior Research Colloquium presentation