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About Armstrong’s Honors Program

The Honors Program at Armstrong State University challenges and rewards highly motivated students with intellectual, cultural and social opportunities. Activities in and out of the classroom are specifically tailored for honors students.

The Honors Program offers talented, motivated students across disciplines a chance to take creative, small classes in the place of general education requirements. It also offers the opportunity to apply intellectual curiosity to independent projects or special major classes. Honors courses reflect the creative, student-centered approach to learning that is central to the program’s mission. Classroom experiences in the Honors Program are enhanced by extracurricular opportunities such as field trips, community service projects, study-abroad programs, social gatherings, and trips to regional and national conferences where students present the results of their Honors experiences. In sum, the Honors Program embodies the traditional values of a liberal arts education at its best, fosters a commitment to lifelong learning, and serves as a campus testing ground for innovative approaches to teaching and learn
Graduating With Honors

When a student graduates with Honors at Armstrong State University, the accomplishment is recognized at the graduation ceremony, and it is clearly indicated on their academic transcript and diploma.

Students Completing all Coursework at Armstrong
Honors students do not require additional credits to graduate. In order to graduate with the designation "Graduate of the Armstrong Honors Program" students must:

1. Have an overall GPA of 3.2 or higher.
2. Complete at least four Honors Courses with a grade of “B” or higher.
3. Complete an Honors Project.

Transfer Students
In order to graduate with the designation "Graduate of the Armstrong Honors Program" transfer students must:

1. Have an overall GPA of 3.2 or higher.
2. Complete the appropriate number of Honors courses with a grade of “B” or higher. Students transferring with 60+ credit hours must take at least one Honors course; students entering with 30-59 hours will need at least two; students with 15-29 will need at least three; and students with fewer than 15 will need at least four (like all other Honors Program students).
3. Complete an Honors Project.

Preparation for Graduate School
Students will find that the academic skills they develop in honors classes are precisely those needed in graduate school. And the close relationships with professors and the student friendships they develop in the Honors Program will help them in all of their classes and in their future careers.
Admission

Incoming Freshmen
Entering freshmen may apply to the Honors Program if they score 1100 on the SAT and graduate with a strong high school record. Students scoring 3 or better on each of three Advanced Placement examinations of the College Board are also encouraged to apply. Entering freshmen must take a minimum of one honors course per semester until they reach four. Honors courses will only be counted toward the 4 total with a B or better final grade.

Continuing and Transfer Students
Continuing and Transfer students may apply to enter the Honors Program if they have at least a 3.2 overall GPA at the university level and are either enrolled in or have completed an honors course.

Applying:
For students looking for more from their Armstrong experience, they should print, fill out, and mail in the Honors Program Application; or if they simply want some additional information, they should contact Dr. Jonathan Roberts. After application submission, Dr. Roberts will review it and keep the students updated of further developments.
Honors Courses

Students are required to enroll in one Honors course each semester until they have completed four Honors courses. Special exceptions may apply, and should be discussed with Dr. Roberts.

The Honors Program classes are meant to be challenging; they aren’t meant to be torture. Honors courses are designed to be innovative, enjoyable, and rewarding since students of similar abilities are grouped together in small classes. Students will get to know your professors well—just the kind of thing that helps when you need letters of recommendation. The books, papers, tests, and projects will expand the way you think. The number of assignments will be about the same—they’ll just be more interesting and more creative. They won’t be busy work.

If students do well in regular classes, they will also do well in honors classes. And the fact that a student took honors level work is clearly indicated on their transcript.

Students must earn at least a B in a minimum of four approved Honors courses (variations of this requirement apply to students transferring to AASU). If students choose to repeat courses, the subsequent grade will replace the previous grade, even if the subsequent grade is lower.
Honors Project

Honors Students are required to complete an Honors Project in order to graduate from Armstrong State University with Honors. It is recommended that they begin their project at the beginning of their Junior year. Students must present their Honors project in the Spring at Armstrong’s Research Symposium.

Different Types of Projects

Honors in the Major
Under this option, students must comply with departmental requirements. These requirements can be found in the departments. In addition to meeting departmentally specified minimum grade point average and other criteria, students must conduct a project. Upon completion, the project must be supervised by one faculty advisor and approved by the faculty advisor and a second faculty member in the student’s major department. Upon completion of this project, Honors students must conduct presentations of their project work in a forum where the Honors Director, Honors Advisory Committee and other faculty and students are invited. Such forums can include a Student Scholarship Symposium, a student lecture series or a presentation for a capstone course.

Interdisciplinary Honors Project
Under this option, students must complete a research project investigating topics in disciplines for which AASU offers a minor or topics in multiple disciplines. Students’ projects must be approved and supervised by a committee of at least three faculty from the departments of the discipline(s) students intend to research, and at least one of the faculty members must represent the student’s major department. Upon completion of this project, Honors students must conduct presentations of their project work in a forum where the Honors Director, Honors Advisory Committee and other faculty and students are invited. Such forums can include a Student Scholarship Symposium, a student lecture series or a presentation for a capstone course.

Honors Service and Leadership
Under this option, students must complete a project that serves the community and requires demonstration of leadership skills. Students’ projects must be approved and supervised by at least one faculty member whose expertise lies in the kind of service students intend to pursue. The proposal and the completed project must be approved by the Director of the Honors Program. To complete this project, students must adhere to the following guidelines:

- The student must submit a prospectus for the advising committee. The prospectus must document need, outline procedure, and propose a project timeline.
- Projects must enable students to contribute at least 40 hours serving to the community.
- Projects must enable students to collaborate with other students, faculty, and/or citizens in the greater community; such a collaboration will enable students to exercise their teamwork and leadership skills.
- Planning the project may involve some library and/or field research.
- The project must benefit citizens in the greater community; the project ma not be campus-focused.
To receive project approval, students must document project completion, total hours served, community member involved and the project’s impact on the community.

The following examples of projects may help students form ideas of their own:

- Developing and implementing a recycling program for a street or neighborhood.
- Initiating and conducting an annual fundraising event for a charitable organization.
- Initiating and implementing an after-school tutorial program for underprivileged children.

Responsibilities

For those students planning their Honors Projects or that anticipate conducting their honors project in the near future, keep in mind these responsibilities:

- Students are responsible for being familiar with and adhering to Honors Program policies regarding honors projects.
- Students are responsible for securing advisors for their Honors projects. According to honors project guidelines, each honors project must be supervised by more than one faculty member.
- Students must complete their honors project to the satisfaction of their faculty advisors and the Honors Program director no later than two weeks prior to their graduation dates.
- Upon completing the projects, students must ask their project advisors for documentation of satisfactory completion of the project. That documentation may take the form of a memo. Students must provide that documentation to the Honors Program director. Students are responsible for contacting the director to schedule the project presentation. The director will reserve an appropriate room for the presentation.
- No later than one week prior to the presentations, students must invite the Honors Program director, the Honors Program advisory committee members, and their project advisors to attend. Students may also invite other interested faculty members, friends, and family.
- Students may request their projects in a room equipped with audio-visual technologies. If they decide to use computer technologies during their presentations, students are responsible for acquiring computers and appropriate software. Students are also responsible for testing equipment in the reserved rooms and planning for possible technical difficulties.
Probation and Reinstatement

Probation
If a first-year freshman student has a cumulative GPA between 3.0 and 2.5 they will be placed on probation. First-year freshman falling below a 2.5 cumulative GPA will be removed from the program.

Students that are not first-year freshman will be removed if their GPA falls below a 3.0

Students are required to enroll in at least one Honors course each semester until they have completed four. Students not planning to enroll in an Honors course, and that have completed less than four courses, need to contact the Honors director for permission to “skip” a semester. Otherwise, they will be dropped from the Honors Program.

Reinstatement
Students that have previously been removed from the Honors Program may be reinstated once they have raised their GPA to a minimum of 3.2. However, these students will still be required to complete four Honors Courses and an Honors Project. Students intending to be apply for reinstatement after removal should simply reapply through the same procedures they did originally.

Keep in mind: Students that are not in the Honors Program can take Honors classes as well. Hence, students planning to apply for reinstatement are encouraged to continue taking Honors Courses.
Scholarships

The Honors Program will keep students informed of scholarship opportunities. Incoming freshmen can apply for general scholarships at Armstrong; their application will be considered for the Honors Scholarship, among others, if they possess appropriate credentials. Current Honors students are notified when there are openings for the Honors Ambassador Scholarship and the Presidential Honors Scholarship. Exceptional students may qualify for the Presidential Honors Scholarships, packages worth $19,500.

Being part of the Honors Program will be considered a positive factor in the evaluation of scholarship awards.
Advisement

How to find an advisor
Some departments assign a specific advisor to students as soon as they declare a degree. Other departments advise students in a workshop setting, in groups. If a student has been assigned a specific advisor, they can find their advisor’s name on the Permanent Student Record. Students should access their Permanent Student Record by following this path:
- Log into SHIP
- Select "Student Services and Financial Aid"
- Select "Academic and Account Information"
- Select "Permanent Student Record"
If the student's advisor's name is not listed on their Permanent Student Record, they need to contact the secretary of the department in their major to have an advisor assigned to them.

How to make an appointment with assigned advisor
- **Honors students get priority registration.** Honors students are able to register on the first day of advisement. To register early, they also need to be advised early. In order to be advised early, the student should email their advisor and politely ask if they would be willing to set up a time for early advisement.
- If the advisor will not agree to early advisement, the student should stop by their advisor’s office in order to see if they have a sign up board outside of their office. If they do, the student should sign up for a time that works best.
- If the advisor does not have a sign-up sheet, then the student should contact them via email to see when an appropriate time would be for them to come in to be advised. The advisor will let the student know some times that work for them and the student will then have to pick a time that works for them as well.
- The university wide advisement period (and the time that Honors students are able to begin registering) usually begins at the end of October for Spring registration, and at the end of March for Summer and Fall registration. In order to be advised early, students should consider e-mailing their advisor at the beginning of the month.

What should students bring to their advisement appointment?
- A list of classes they would like to take. Once at the appointment, the advisor will go through the list and tell the student what classes are appropriate and what classes are not.
- Students should ask any questions or concerns about their major, courses, or career opportunities.
- Students should also ask their advisor or the secretary of their department if they need to pick up and bring an advisement sheet with them to advisement.
What happens at advisement and why must students go?

- Get questions answered about their major, courses, and career opportunities.
- An advisor will make sure that students are taking the right courses to graduate with their chosen major.
- An advisor will lift a hold on the students account, allowing the student to register for those courses.
- Without first being advised, students cannot register for courses.
Additional Benefits

Honors Lounge
Honors Students have access to the Honors Lounge located at Solms 101. This lounge provides an area for students to work on homework between classes, and it serves as a place to relax and socialize with other Honors Students. Upcoming events in the Honors Program are displayed in the room, and refreshments for purchase are available to students. Students with questions concerning the Honors Program will find Dr. Roberts’ and his student workers’ offices in the Honors Lounge.

Leadership
Honors students are often among the most visible and sought-after student leaders on campus; the special opportunities honors students take often translate into internships, jobs, and stronger resumes. Also, Honors Students have the opportunity to influence the Honors Program serving as an officer for the program upon nomination and election.

Student Lecture Series
What is the Student Lecture Series?
The Student Lecture Series (SLS) is an opportunity for Honors Program students to share their research and expertise with the academic community of AASU. Student’s senior projects are often the topics of the lectures, and these projects are the result of independent research and months of work.

How did this start?
At AASU, there is a faculty lecture series, where faculty members share their research or expertise. Some students of the Honors program had the idea to allow students to do the same thing, and what better place to sponsor it than in the Honors Program, since the seniors already had to prepare projects, and these students should have the opportunity of sharing their work in public. The first lecture was in the spring of 2006, with an English major’s analysis of the works of Salman Rushdie. Since then, several lectures on diverse topics have been given each semester.

How does it work?
Any student with any area of expertise is welcome to talk with the Honors president or director about giving a lecture. They are held at AASU, and open to anyone who wishes to attend. The lectures are from 20 minutes to an hour, with a time for questions afterward.

What do students get out of the SLS?
The presenters get invaluable expertise in presenting and defending their research. The attendees have the opportunity to hear interesting presentations, get ideas on how they can perform their own research, and learn to participate actively in an academic community (and eat free food!)
Honors Computing Lab
Located at Solms 101, the Honors Computing Lab provides computers and free printing for Honors Students. Any troubles that arise concerning the lounge can be addressed to the Honors Student workers available in the Honors Lounge.

Priority Registration
Honors students get to register one week ahead of other students. As a result, students are almost guaranteed the classes they want, at the times they want, and with the professors they want. Before students register, the Honors Program Director and other advisors will work with them to carefully plan their academic schedule.

Holds
Students may have hold on their account that will stop them from registering for one of two reasons:
1. They must be advised and have the hold lifted by their advisor before they are able to register for classes.
2. They may have unpaid fees such as parking tickets, library fines, issues with financial aid, etc. These issues must be addressed before the hold will be lifted and then they will be given the “ok” to register for classes. Generally these fines can be paid for at the Bursar’s office in Burnett Hall.

Errors
- Pre-Req/Test Score error. This error could mean many things:
  - Students have not taken the correct prerequisites for this class and need to take another course before they can take this one. Pre-reqs for each course can be found in the back of the course catalog.
  - The student’s SAT/ACT score is not high enough to qualify them to take a particular course. This happens a lot with math courses, and therefore the student may need to take a lower level math class first.
  - This error is often mistakenly given. If a student is not sure why they are receiving this error, they should speak to the director about the error. The director may be able to get this error removed for the student and allow them to register for the course.
- Co-Requisite error: This happens a lot with Biology courses. Students must sign up for the Biology lecture course and the correct lab course at the same time. Students should:
  - Find the lecture course they want to register for.
  - Click on the CRN# listed next to that course.
  - A new screen will display with more details on that course. The first line should read: “Corequisite Lab required: Either ##### or ######”.
  - The two numbers listed are the CRNs for the two labs that are linked to that lecture course. Students must sign up for one of these two lab CRNs listed.
  - Check the boxes next to both the course and the lab that they want to register for, then click “Register.”
Social Life
Students will learn as much in college from their peers as from their professors. The Honors Program is set up so that they meet fellow honors students in classes, in social settings, and in extracurricular activities. Honors students travel on field trips, attend plays, go on restaurant hops, and get together at the homes of some of their professors. The Honors Program Lounge, Solms 101, gives students an opportunity to study, relax, and gather away from the more crowded parts of campus. Altogether, the Honors Program creates an atmosphere of learning and camaraderie that lasts throughout your Armstrong years.

Community Service Opportunities
The Honors Program organizes and raises awareness of service events within the community. Each year the program provides students the opportunity to volunteer in the Tybee Island Beach Sweep, Treasure Savannah, and other service events.

Field Trips
Students in the Honors Program are given the option of going on several field trips with other Honors Students.

Epworth by the Sea
Freshman can travel to Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island the weekend before the beginning of the Fall Semester. This trip allows students to meet other Honors Students through various games and activities, speak with Dr. Roberts and other professors about the Honors Program itself and various other things students will come across in college, and to simply enjoy themselves before classes begin.

Honors Trips
Students are also invited to partake in an overnight Honors Trips each year. While on the retreat, students will be exposed to knowledge-enriching experiences in a different area, and given time to simply relax and enjoy friends.

Honors Conference
Groups of Armstrong Honors students attend regional and national conferences where Honors students present the results of their undergraduate research. There, students get to meet other Honors students from all over the country.

Local Field Trips
Savannah is rich with history, culture, and art, therefore several field trips to local attractions within Savannah are also offered to students.

Research
Research presentations by professors and research presentations by honors students are available for viewing by Honors Students. Also, the Honors Project is a great research opportunity that also serves as an impressive credential when applying to Graduate School.
Navigate Orientation
At Navigate, first year students in the Honors Program are provided an enriching orientation experience tailored specifically for Honors Students. Not only will students learn about the Honors Program, but upperclassmen Honors Students will assist freshmen in registering for their classes.
How to Find Out About Honors Events

Make sure you are on the Honors e-mail list. If you haven't received any e-mails from Honors during the first month of school, send an e-mail to the Honors director or student worker so that you can be added to the list.

- Check your Pirate's Cove e-mail account. All necessary information will be emailed to you.
- Find us on Facebook- [http://www.facebook.com/groups/109118602457131/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/109118602457131/)
- View our website- [www.honors.armstrong.edu](http://www.honors.armstrong.edu). The event calendar, upcoming classes, and general information about Honors can be found at this website.
- Check the Honors lounge (Solms 101) for flyers about upcoming events