School and College Honors Programs

The University of Wisconsin–Madison offers a rich and varied undergraduate education to all who seek it, but some students wish to challenge themselves with an even more intensive academic experience. From its earliest days, the University of Wisconsin–Madison has welcomed and nurtured students of outstanding intellectual ability and accomplishment. Since the founding of the first honors program in 1958, honors study at the UW–Madison has offered an environment of challenge and opportunity for students who want to make the most of their university experience.

Honors programs are designed for students looking for more intensive academic work. High grade-point averages are required to maintain honor student standing. Programs vary among the schools and colleges; see specific school or college information. Honors programs at the UW–Madison are based in the particular colleges and schools. Each has its own admissions requirements, activities, and programming, which you will find on their individual web sites. Contact the programs individually for more information.

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Honors Program
School of Education Honors Options
College of Engineering Honors Program
School of Human Ecology Honors Program
College of Letters & Science Honors Program
School of Nursing Honors Program

Scholars Programs
Academic Enrichment Opportunities
Resource for Advisors

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Honors Program
The Honors program in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences provides a challenging and intellectually rewarding experience for high-achieving undergraduates. Students are accepted into the program based on grades in high school or college, or by providing evidence of unique intelligence and curiosity.

For more information, contact: Phil Gonsiska, Assistant Dean, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, 116 Agricultural Hall, 1450 Linden Drive, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-3105, gonsiska@wisc.edu.
School of Education Honors Options
Through a unique collaboration between the School of Education and the College of Letters and Science (L&S), students in the School of Education are offered the opportunity to participate in the L&S Honors Program. Education students may participate in the L&S Honors in the Liberal Arts (HLA), Honors in the Major (HM), or Comprehensive Honors (both HLA and HM) curricula. See the L&S Honors section for more details and contact information.

College of Engineering Honors Program
The College of Engineering considers all its students honors students in the sense that all engineering classes are challenging, focused, and require unusual academic ability. Nonetheless, honors opportunities are available on a limited basis in the College of Engineering. The Engineering Honors in Liberal Arts Program is open to a select group of entering freshmen with unusual ability and unusually broad interests in liberal arts. In addition, several engineering degree programs allow students to earn the Honors in Research distinction. For more information, contact: Andrew E. Greenberg, Associate Faculty Associate, 2020 Engineering Hall, 1415 Engineering Drive, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 890-1534.

School of Human Ecology Honors Program
The School of Human Ecology Honors Program provides an opportunity for students to pursue coursework in a greater depth than is possible in regular courses. Honors program members are eligible to enroll in courses that are offered for honors credit only, to participate in campuswide activities for honors program students, and to apply for special research funding opportunities. The honors program is a school-wide program open to all students, regardless of major. Completion of the honors program requirements results in an Honors Degree from the School of Human Ecology upon graduation.

For more information, contact: Student Academic Affairs Office, 1300 Linden Drive, Room 1194 Nancy Nicholas Hall, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-2608.

College of Letters & Science Honors Program
The College of Letters and Science (L&S) Honors Program attracts some of UW–Madison’s most motivated and talented undergraduates who challenge and learn from each other while working closely with faculty members. By bringing students and professors closer together in small classes and individual research settings, the Honors Program fosters a feeling of community even as students push themselves to explore the very frontiers of knowledge. In addition to traditional course work, most Honors students pursue research projects of their own, and many find this experience so exciting that they go on to earn advanced degrees in the nation's best graduate and professional schools.

For more information, contact: L&S Honors Program, Washburn Observatory, 1401 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-2984, honors@honors.ls.wisc.edu.

School of Nursing Honors Program
The UW–Madison School of Nursing offers an Honors Degree for those high-ability undergraduate students seeking early research involvement with a faculty mentor. Students who successfully complete the Honors Program graduate with distinguished academic performance
and receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Honors. In addition, students of the Honors Program acquire an enriched view of nursing science.

For more information, contact: Anne Jozwiak, University Services Program Associate, School of Nursing, UW–Madison, 600 Highland Ave., Madison, WI 53792-2455, (608) 263-5171, ajozwiak@wisc.edu.

Scholars Programs

The UW–Madison offers a range of other programs that resemble honors programs in many respects, and may offer financial support to their participations. In addition, Scholarships@UW–Madison offer a comprehensive list of scholarships available.

The Chancellor's Scholarship Program

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program provides opportunities and resources to prepare eligible undergraduate students with career interests in collegiate teaching and research to pursue graduate studies leading to a doctoral degree. The goal of this program is to increase the number of students in doctoral degree programs who are low-income and first-generation undergraduates or students who come from groups underrepresented in graduate education.

For more information, contact: McNair Office, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 408 Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-063, McNair@bascom.wisc.edu.

Academic Enrichment Opportunities

UW–Madison offers students many ways to enrich their academic programs, regardless of the major field of study they choose to pursue, and in addition to Schools and College Honors programs. Engaging in research, studying abroad, being part of learning communities, becoming a student leader, engaging in service learning—these are all vital components that enhance and strengthen classroom learning. This partnership between in- and out-of-classroom learning form the foundation of the Wisconsin Experience. The university encourages students to take advantage of opportunities to integrate their learning experiences.

Learning communities
Service learning
Undergraduate research opportunities
Study abroad
Undergraduate Academic Awards Office

Resource for Advisors

An Advisor's Guide to Honors Programs Across Schools and Colleges
Honors Programs

An Advisor’s Guide to Honors Programs
Across Schools and Colleges

Because incoming students are often confused by the different Honors programs offered by each School or College, this brief guide is meant as a reference for advisors to use in answering student questions.
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
The CALS Honors Program allows talented and ambitious students to distinguish themselves academically. The objective of the Honors Program is to help students develop critical thinking abilities through specialized courses and to provide students the challenge of designing, conducting, and reporting research in collaboration with faculty from one of the world's leading research institutions.

We offer three different paths to earn an Honors degree. For all three, it is highly recommended that students initiate the programs in their freshman year, though later admission can be discussed with the CALS Undergraduate Programs and Services Office in Room 116 Agriculture Hall (608-262-3003, undergrads@cals.wisc.edu).

- PATH 1: Honors in Research
- PATH 2: Honors in the Major
- PATH 3: Individualized Honors

The Program:
Provides opportunities for highly motivated students to become involved with research beginning their freshman year

- Allows students to develop a collaborative relationship with a CALS faculty member
- Challenges students to develop critical thinking skills and problem solving abilities
- Prepares students to develop and carrying out an independent research project

Students who complete the program successfully will receive an Honors designation on their diplomas

Path 1: Honors in Research
CALS students can earn an Honors Degree by participating in the University’s great research tradition. The Honors in Research track requires students to complete two research projects, an introductory project and a senior thesis project. Students work under the guidance of a faculty mentor for both projects.

In the course of this program, it is expected that the student will: (i) learn the background and methods of the discipline; (ii) identify an interesting and tractable problem or question for study; (iii) learn to draft a proposal defending the relevance and appropriateness of specific research efforts; (iv) demonstrate appropriate skills in working on that problem in a manner appropriate to a professional in the discipline; (v) analyze and interpret the results of their efforts; and (vi) present these results as a thesis and in an approved public forum.
To earn Honors in Research, students must first be admitted to the College's Honors Program. Students must then make satisfactory progress toward the program requirements listed below and maintain a 3.25 GPA. Failure to maintain this progress will result in removal of the student from the Honors Program.

Program requirements:

- Introductory research project and presentation
- Two courses - InterAg 388 and 488
- At least four Senior Thesis credits 681 / 682
- Senior Thesis research project and presentation
- Senior Thesis submission

Progress is monitored by the CALS Undergraduate Programs and Services Office. Each May Honors students submit a letter to the Honors Dean in the Office of Undergraduate Programs and Services that describes their accomplishments during the academic year. The letter should be signed by the student's faculty mentor. The Honors Dean should receive this letter by May 1.

Path 2: Honors in the Major

Honors in the Major offers CALS students an advanced program of study within the students' major fields and closely related disciplines. In this track students must complete a specified number of honors credits in a designated set of courses. Students must be well prepared in courses leading into the major field of study and be willing to devote time and energy to a rigorous academic experience. Well-prepared students who plan to obtain advanced degrees in the discipline should consider applying to participate in Honors in the Major. This option is not offered by every department in the College. Students should check with the Office of Undergraduate Programs and Services or the department to see if there is an approved plan for their program.

To earn Honors in the Major, students must first be admitted to the College's Honors Program, and must maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.25 and no less than 3.0 in Honors (or equivalent) coursework. Students may apply for admission to the Honors Program for Honors in the Major at any time, but are strongly advised to apply before the junior year. A departmental advisor or advisory committee monitors progress toward Honors in the Major. The Department will certify satisfactory completion to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Services prior to graduation.

The Honors in the Major requirements vary by department, but all are approved by the College Honors Committee to include the following requirements:

1. Students must successfully complete at least 20 credits of courses taken for honors (or equivalent) from a list of courses provided by the department. The list may include honors and advanced non-honors courses that add rigor to the undergraduate program in the major.
2. Students must prepare a Senior Honors Thesis (including preparing a research proposal, conducting the research and presenting the results orally and in writing). A student’s faculty advisor is responsible for approving the Senior Honors Thesis, in consultation with the student’s research mentor if different from the advisor. The department sets the number of Senior Honors Research credits (681-682) for the thesis. Thesis credits are not included in the 20 credits of honors (or equivalent) course work required to earn Honors in the Major.

3. Students must present their Senior Honors Thesis at the CALS Spring Research Forum or another public research arena.

4. The thesis must be signed and approved by both the student’s advisor and mentor (if different from the advisor) and two copies must be filed with the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Services before the student can be awarded the designation “graduate with honors”. Upon completion, the thesis is filed in Steenbock Memorial Library and made accessible to anyone interested in the Honors student’s research project.

Upon successful completion of program requirements, students are awarded the Bachelor of Science degree with Honors.

**Path 3: Individualized Honors**

The Individualized Honors track is available in any major and degree program for the exceptional student for whom there is no suitable honors curriculum in the College. The student in this program must come to UW-Madison with excellent academic preparation, must have demonstrated an exceptional ability to acquire knowledge, and must have the potential to recognize and creatively solve problems. The program requires considerable maturity and initiative because the student is responsible for both the development of an Individualized Honors proposal and its successful completion.

Students may apply for admission to Individualized Honors at any time during the freshman or sophomore year, but it is highly recommended that the program be started by the beginning of the sophomore year. Immediately upon acceptance into Individualized Honors the student identifies an Individualized Honors Committee, with the assistance of the student’s academic advisor. The committee must include the faculty mentor who will work with the student on research, a member of the CALS Honors Committee, and a third faculty member with interests appropriate to the student’s proposed program. The student, in cooperation with the independent honors committee, develops an academic plan that satisfies the requirements for Individualized Honors. The student and the committee are to meet every semester during the advising period and evaluate progress, reevaluate the goals remaining in the plan and make any necessary adjustments.

For more information contact us in [CALS Undergraduate Programs and Services](mailto:UAPC.UndergraduateProgramsAndServices@wisc.edu) at (608) 262-3003.
School of Business
The School of Business does not currently offer an Honors Program.

School of Education
The School of Education collaborates with the College of Letters and Science Honors Program to allow students in Education who are also majoring in a Letters and Science Department to participate in Honors in the Liberal Arts, Honors in the Major or Comprehensive Honors. Students must complete requirements of the School of Education and the requirements for the appropriate honors program in the College of Letters and Science. For more information see the College of Letters and Science page below.

School of Engineering
Honors-in-Research Program
Departments within the College of Engineering offer Honors-in-Research programs where students participate in research activities under the auspices of a faculty member. Each department may tailor their program to specific needs within their majors. However, the following general principles apply:

Students in the Honors-in-Research program enroll for Honors-in-Research credits as part of their major. A portion of these credits typically can be applied to the major requirements (typically 6 credits). The research activity associated with these credits culminates in a senior thesis that describes the research hypotheses, findings, and conclusions. The senior thesis is prepared in the style of a graduate thesis and is presented in a publicly announced seminar.

The research advisor assigns a grade to the thesis, which is also assigned to all Honors-in-Research credits on the student's transcript. Most majors require students to submit a bound final copy of the thesis to the department. Students who satisfy the requirements for the honors program receive “Honors in Research” on their final transcript.

To be eligible for an Honors-in-Research program, a student must have completed at least two semesters on the UW-Madison campus with a minimum cumulative GPA (generally at least 3.5). Students who are interested in Honors-in-Research should meet with the Chair of the department (or a designate such as an Associate Chair for Undergraduate Programs) for their major. The Chair (or their designate) will help the student identify an appropriate professor to serve as a research advisor. The researcher advisor guides the student in the research process, including creation of new knowledge and making a scholarly contribution commensurate with scientific publication. The research may be conducted independently by the student, or as part of a larger team effort. Research teams are more common.

Honors in Liberal Arts distinction
**EHLA Program**

High-ability students who enter the College of Engineering as first-year students with particularly broad educational goals and exceptional academic skills may be interested in the EHLA program (Engineering Honors in Liberal Arts). It is a clone of the honors program in the College of Letters in Science, and as such gives selected students both access and motivation to take honors-level classes to fulfill basic engineering degree requirements. Note that the College of Engineering does not offer honors classes, except for a few honors independent studies courses. Students choose many distinct routes through the undergraduate engineering degree program. The purpose of EHLA is to provide recognition and encouragement for those students who have both the motivation and ability to fulfill not only the basic requirements for the degree, but a higher level of achievement: completion of unusually focused, challenging courses which require substantial critical thinking and independent inquiry in diverse modes. By requiring EHLA students to take honors classes in humanities and social studies as well as physical and natural sciences, the College of Engineering acknowledges the utility of being able to solve complex problems from a number of different viewpoints.

As a sidelight, EHLA offers social opportunities for gifted students to meet and interact. EHLA is highly selective, because space is limited in UW-Madison honors courses. Prospective students should see EHLA as just one way to progress toward an excellent engineering education. It alone does not make a student successful. As a corollary, students should not see it as THE reason to enroll at UW-Madison: EHLA is only one of many opportunities for achieving excellence. All students admitted to EHLA are eligible to apply for professional development funds through the EHLA Opportunity Fund, established through grants from the College of Engineering Dean's Office and the UW-Madison Honors Committee. [http://www.engr.wisc.edu/current/current-student-undergraduate-honors-liberal-arts.html](http://www.engr.wisc.edu/current/current-student-undergraduate-honors-liberal-arts.html)
School of Human Ecology
The School of Human Ecology Honors Program provides an opportunity for students to pursue course work in greater depth than is possible in regular courses. The honors program is a school-wide program open to students regardless of major. Honors program members are eligible to enroll in courses offered for honors-only credit, to participate in campus-wide activities for honors program students, and to apply for special research-funding opportunities. Upon completion of the honors program requirements and degree requirements, the student will receive an honors degree from the School of Human Ecology. The transcript for a SoHE honors student who does not complete all honors degree requirements will have the honors designation next to honors courses completed.

Admission to the Honors Program
Admission decisions are made by a faculty committee in the appropriate SoHE department and will take into consideration the criteria listed below and the strength of the written application. A student applies to the Honors Program by completing an application for admission available online at http://www.sohe.wisc.edu/new/undergraduates/documents/HonorsApplication.pdf.

Freshmen. Admission as a newly enrolled freshman requires a 3.3 grade point average (GPA) or high school class ranking in the top 10% and a composite ACT score of 27 or a combined SAT score of 1100.

Continuing Students. Admission of currently enrolled students requires a minimum 3.3 GPA. Students, both transfer and those currently enrolled in SoHE, may apply for entrance to the Honors Program in any semester of their undergraduate career after the 3.3 minimum GPA has been established.

Requirements for Honors Degree
1. A total of at least 24 honors credits, with at least 12 of the honors credits obtained in Human Ecology coursework.
2. To continue in the Honors Program, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 in all UW-Madison courses.
3. Students must receive a grade of B or above in a course to receive honors credit for that course.
4. Students must complete an honors thesis for at least three (3), but no more than six (6), senior honors thesis credits. Students are strongly recommended to consider registering for two semesters of senior honors thesis credits for adequate time to plan and complete the senior honors thesis. Senior honors thesis credits may count toward the 12 credits minimum of Human Ecology honors credits.

Enrolling for Honors Credits
Honors credit may be obtained by enrolling in courses designated in the Timetable with an H,! or %.
Courses with an H designation are “Honors only” courses and the enrollment system automatically assigns honors credit. These courses are open only to students in a formal Honors Program.
Courses with a ! designation are unrestricted Honors courses open to all students. They are recommended for students planning or participating in an Honors Program. The enrollment system will automatically assign Honors credit.

Courses with a % designation are “Honors available” courses. Students must consult the instructor regarding expectations for earning Honors credits in the course. The enrollment system will prompt for a choice of Honors or not.

Q: Do I have to be in the Honors Program to take Honors courses?
A: Not necessarily. Honors credits may be obtained by enrolling in courses designated with an H or %, but only courses with an H carry automatic Honors credit for all enrolled students. These H designated courses are considered sufficiently challenging to carry honors credit for all students. However, in some colleges at UW-Madison, the large number of students in the Honors Program may mean that registration in H designated courses may be limited to Honors students only. While all high-ability students are encouraged to enroll in Human Ecology H designated courses, preference may be given to Honors Program students. Thus, it is to the advantage of students who wish to enroll in these courses and who meet the Honors Program criteria, to apply for the Honors Program.

Q: What happens if I enroll in Honors and later wish to withdraw?
A: Withdrawal from the Honors Program requires the student to make a formal, but simple, request to do so. All Honors credits earned remain on the student’s transcript. While withdrawal from the Honors Program restricts access to special UW events, courses, and housing designated specifically for Honors Program students, it does not affect the student in any other way. The students have the same access to courses and UW programs as does any other Human Ecology student. What is gained is the enriching experience from Honors courses taken and the identification by faculty of a high-ability Human Ecology student. A student who withdraws from the Honors Program may reapply for admission should they decide to reenter later.

For more information & application materials, contact:
UW-Madison School of Human Ecology
Student Academic Affairs Office
(608) 262-2608
acadaffairs@mail.sohe.wisc.edu
www.sohe.wisc.edu
Honors in the Liberal Arts

To earn Honors in the Liberal Arts (HLA), students must

- apply and be admitted to the L&S Honors Program and complete an L&S degree requirements
- maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 in all coursework
- complete a minimum of 24 honors credits (with grades of B or better). Of these 24 credits:
  - a minimum of 15 must be “Automatic Honors” (designated H or ! in the Timetable)
  - a minimum of 6 must be in the Sciences breadth area (includes the Natural, Physical and Biological Sciences; designated B, N, P, W, X, or Y in the Timetable)
  - a minimum of 6 must be in the Humanities breadth area (H, L, or Z in the Timetable)
  - a minimum of 6 must be in the Social Sciences breadth area (S or Z in the Timetable)

Successful completion of HLA will result in “With Honors in the Liberal Arts” appearing on the student’s UW-Madison transcript and diploma.

Honors in the Major

Each academic department determines its own Honors in the Major (HM) requirements. For details on HM in your department of interest, consult (1) the Undergraduate Catalogue (online at http://www.wisc.edu/pubs/ug/); (2) the department website; (3) the Undergraduate Advisor or Honors Coordinator for the department. To earn an HM degree, all students must:

- formally declare the major and complete L&S degree requirements
- apply and be admitted to the HM track in the department and file an Honors in the Major declaration form with the L&S Honor Program office
- complete the L&S general degree requirements
- maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 in all coursework
- maintain a minimum GPA in courses taken toward the major (usually between 3.3 and 3.5)
- complete the designated number of upper-level courses (often an honors seminar sequence)
- complete a two-semester capstone project (typically an Honors Senior Thesis)

Successful completion of HM will result in “With Honors in the Major” appearing on the student’s UW-Madison transcript and diploma.

Students in schools other than L&S may pursue HM. Upon successful completion of the requirements, these students will receive recognition on their transcripts, but not on their diplomas.

Comprehensive Honors

Comprehensive Honors (CH) is the highest undergraduate degree offered by the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To earn CH, students must:
• complete all requirements for Honors in the Liberal Arts
• complete all requirements of Honors in the Major

**Successful completion of CH will result in “With Comprehensive Honors” appearing on the student’s UW-Madison transcript and diploma.**

**When and how to apply?**

All prospective first-year students admitted to the university and to the College of Letters and Science will be invited to apply to be considered for admission to the Honors Program to pursue the Honors in the Liberal Arts degree.

Students will receive an invitation message by e-mail, containing a URL to our online application. Students who do not have email and/or internet access will receive an invitation letter by mail with directions to contact our office by phone (608-262-2984) to request a hard copy application. A specific deadline will be provided in the invitation message or letter, and only applications received on or before the deadline will be considered.

Entry into the L&S Honors Program as a first semester, first-year student is not the only opportunity to apply for admission to the Honors Program -- it is just the first opportunity. We offer rolling admissions for continuing students in the college who have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.3. Students can also consider pursuing Honors in the Major at a later date.

Continuing students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and students transferring to Madison from another institution will be considered for admission to the Honors in the Liberal Arts (HLA) degree track based on their cumulative GPA (3.3 minimum) and their submission of the following:

1. A Continuing and Transfer Student Application (downloadable from the program’s website)
2. A letter of recommendation from a professor or a teaching assistant

Continuing and Transfer Student applications may be submitted to the Honors Program office at Washburn Observatory (1401 Observatory Drive) at any time. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and admission decisions are usually made within two weeks of submission of the completed application and supporting materials.

While continuing or transfer students with 60 or more credits at the time of their application to the L&S Honors Program are eligible to participate in the Honors in the Liberal Arts (HLA) degree track, we encourage such students to consider Honors in the Major (HM) as an option for the honors degree. Students may find it difficult to complete the HLA degree requirements if they begin the program in their Junior or Senior years.

To apply for Honors in the Major contact the Honors advisor in the major department after a major has been formally declared.

**What are the benefits of being in Honors?**

The Honors Program seeks students who desire to be active learners and who also want to expand their leadership and service capacities beyond the classroom. Honors at the university
level is not about “being” an honors student or adding to your resume. Rather, honors is about going beyond what a student might otherwise do by challenging yourself to obtain the best possible education you can during your undergraduate career – one centered on the goals of a liberal arts education. Explicitly stated, these goals include:

- developing knowledge of human behavior, human cultures, and of the physical and natural world we live in through study in sciences and mathematics, social sciences, and humanities;
- building a robust set of intellectual and practical skills in inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, and teamwork and problem solving;
- increasing personal and social responsibility by expanding civic knowledge and engagement;
- developing greater intercultural knowledge and competence, and expanding capacity for ethical reasoning and action;
- achieving a high level of integrative learning – a synthesis of knowledge and understanding across areas of both generalized and specialized study that can be applied in new ways to address real-world problems and issues.

As a College of Letters and Science Honors student you will have access to small classes, typically taught by professors at the cutting edge of their fields, where you can explore course topics in more depth than in a regular course. In addition you will be taking courses with other academically motivated students and will be able to learn from them.

Honors advisors provide support to help Honors students make good decisions about their academic programs and careers.

The Letters and Science Honors Program offers a variety of competitive research grants and awards from the Welton Summer Sophomore Honors Apprenticeship which supports students on their first research experiences to several awards for Honors Senior Thesis Research support. We also sponsor Leadership Trust Awards that provide two semesters of in-state tuition and a $3,000 supply budget for one or two students each year to develop projects that will benefit the campus or greater Madison community.

The Honors Student Organization provides a wide array of academic, social and service programs including: an opening tailgate party/welcome reception, Wednesdays at Washburn - informal discussions with honors faculty members, group trips to plays, operas and other cultural events in Madison, and fund raising, service, and workgroups to support community needs.

In addition, the Fall First-Year Retreat offers new students the chance to meet informally with faculty and staff to discuss issues relating to academics, achieving balance, and career options.
School of Nursing

Overview, Goals and Benefits
The UW-Madison School of Nursing offers an Honors Program for those high-ability students seeking early research involvement with a faculty mentor. Students who successfully complete the Honors Program graduate with distinguished academic performance and receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Honors. In addition, students of the Honors Program acquire an enriched view of nursing science. Each student in the Honors Program has an active role in identifying a faculty mentor. Once a student is assigned a faculty mentor, the mentor will help the student understand the research process and provide research-related resources. The mentor will also assist with identification and implementation of a senior honors thesis.

Application and Admission
Qualified students with a cumulative undergraduate GPA at or above 3.5 are invited to apply for admission to the Honors Program when they are admitted to the nursing program. Admission to the Honors Program is judged on past academic work, a short essay, and a letter of reference. Persons who do not fit within admission guidelines, but feel they have exceptional ability as evidenced by an advanced degree in another discipline and/or unique academic or professional experiences may be considered for admission on an individual basis.

Program Requirements
In order to complete the Honors program in nursing, students must complete the following honors courses:

**N680 - Honors Seminar (1 cr)**
Brief course description: The Honors Seminar course (N680) provides students with the opportunity to learn about faculty research projects. Students enroll in this course during the first semester of the nursing program. As part of the seminar, faculty present their research, and faculty and students discuss research findings. In addition, students arrange meetings with faculty to explore the possibility of a mentoring experience and potential senior honors thesis projects. At the end of the seminar, students are assigned a faculty mentor.

**N302 - Introduction to Systematic Inquiry (3 cr) – honors section**
Brief course description: The Nursing Research course, Introduction to Systematic Inquiry (N302), provides students with an overview of the steps of the research process. This course precedes the senior honor thesis and students enroll in an honors section. During the course, students design their honors thesis with guidance from their faculty mentor so that, upon completion of the course, students submit their N681 senior thesis contract.

**N681 - Senior Honors Thesis (1-2 cr) and N682 - Senior Honors Thesis (1-2 cr)**
Brief description: The Senior Honors Thesis (N681 and N682) is a two-semester effort (or a semester and a summer). Students actively participate in their faculty mentor’s research program. The honors thesis can involve one or more of the following steps of
the research process: reviewing the literature; designing nursing interventions for testing; collecting data; analyzing and interpreting data; and preparing scholarly reports or manuscripts.

**Contact Information**
For further information about the Honors Program contact: Anne Jozwiak
Telephone: (608) 263-5171
E-mail: ajozwiak@wisc.edu
Earning Honors Credit

Members of Honors Programs may earn honors credit by:

- taking specific courses or sections designated Honors (H, !, %) in the Timetable
- completing additional work in a non-honors course, with consent of instructor (this option recommended for upper-class students)
- taking graduate level courses, with consent of instructor (available only to Juniors and Seniors with cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher)
- studying abroad!

*** In all cases, to receive honors credit, students must earn a grade of “B” or higher in the course. ***

Honors Designations in the Timetable

**H**

Honors Only. Course reserved for Honors candidates. Generally small, led by a faculty member and designed for acceleration or enrichment. The enrollment system will automatically assign honors credit. (e.g., Psychology 281)

May also carry a middle digit “8” in the course number.

**!**

Unrestricted Honors. Course recommended for Honors students, but open to all students. Enrollment system will automatically assign honors credit. (e.g., Economics 111, Biocore Sequence)

**%**

Honors Available. Course with an optional Honors component. Students must register for the Honors component through MyWisc enrollment. Student must consult the instructor during first weeks of semester to determine Honors curriculum. Instructors often have designated Honors curricula, but in some cases the student is encouraged to come up with a project idea of
their own. Open to all students for enrollment. (e.g., a student wrote a children’s book in the Hindi text for an Asian Studies class)