

CONTINUATION IN THE PROGRAM

Progress in the Honors Program

Honors students should be actively pursuing their degrees, taking classes and earning credits. As members of the Honors Program, students must earn Honors credit on a regular basis.

The Honors Program offers a range of opportunities for students to earn Honors credit each semester:

- Honors sections of core curriculum courses and elective courses
 - Honors contract courses in the major for 300 and 400 level courses
 - Senior Honors thesis
 - International Study
 - Honors points in non-traditional learning environments.
- **Coursework** - In order to graduate with an Honors degree, students must complete 30 credits of Honors-level coursework. Reasonable progress is considered to be the completion of 6 Honors credits each year. In order to retain the privileges of membership in the Honors Program, students must maintain this minimum progress. However, students can and should complete Honors credits at a faster pace. NOTE - In order to reach the required 30 Honors credits and graduate with an Honors degree, Honors students must complete more than the minimum 6 Honors credits per academic year.

In order to receive Honors credit, the student must complete the Honors course requirement and earn a final course grade of B- or better.

- **Grade Point Average** - In order to remain in the Honors program, Honors students must maintain a cumulative 3.25 grade point average in any semester. In order to receive Honors credit for a course, Honors students must earn at least a B- in the course.
- **Probation** - If an Honors student's GPA falls below the required GPA 3.25, the student is placed on a one-semester probationary period. During the probationary semester, the student continues to enjoy all Honors Program privileges, including priority registration. At the end of the probationary semester, with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher the student returns to regular Honors status. A student with a cumulative GPA lower than 3.25 is dismissed from the Honors Program. The student may apply for readmission to the Honors Program if their cumulative GPA is 3.25 or higher.
- **Mandatory Advisement** – All Honors Students must participate in Honors advisement at least once each academic year. First-year students and seniors

should arrange appointments with their Honors advisors in the fall semester; sophomores and juniors should arrange appointments in the spring semester. Only after an Honors student is advised in the Honors Program, will the student be cleared for registration and given priority registration.

The Honors advising process is designed to advise students on their academic progress in Honors. Students should be aware of their responsibilities as an advisee.

- Students should contact and regularly keep in touch with the Honors Program.
 - Students should make appointments early and keep appointments or call to change or cancel appointments.
 - Students should come to appointments prepared and with specific questions in mind.
 - Students should have met or scheduled an appointment with major advisors.
 - Students should be equipped with writing utensils, tentative class schedule, DARS report, and Honors checklist.
 - Students should ask about other information related to the Honors Program, e.g., national scholarships, scheduled events, and service opportunities.
 - Prior to the appointments, students should prepare a preliminary schedule of classes.
 - Students should have a positive attitude and leave the advising session with a smile.
- **Readmission** – An Honors student is terminated from membership of the Honors Program when
 - a student completes a *Request to Withdraw From the Honors Program* form online and withdraws from the Honors Program
 - a student fails to fully participate in the Honors Program or fails to complete at least six Honors credit hours per academic year
 - a student falls below a cumulative GPA of less than 3.25 in any semester.

Any student terminated from the Honors Program may apply for readmission. A student who has been terminated from the Honors Program may submit a formal petition in the form of a letter requesting reinstatement. The typed letter must be submitted to the Director of the Honors Program explaining the circumstances of termination and reasons for reinstatement. After considering the circumstances and the student's academic history, the Director determines whether the student is reinstated.

- **Leave of Absence** - If an Honors student plans *not* to register for classes at the University of Nevada, Reno in a given semester, it is important that the student file a *Leave of Absence* form available online. Prior to studying internationally, a student must complete this form.

Earning Honors Credit

Students complete the required 30-Honors credits either by enrolling in Honors courses, by contracting Honors courses in the major, or by earning up to six Honors points. In other words, the 30 credits can be earned by taking 24 hours of Honors course credits and by completing 6 Honors points. NOTE - Honors points do not meet academic requirements for graduation.

- **Honors Courses** - Each semester [honors courses](#) are offered specifically for Honors Program members. Taught by outstanding teaching faculty, these courses are distinguished by their distinctive approach to teaching and learning of the subject matter. Honors courses usually emphasize participatory classroom styles, intense and in-depth study of subject matter, the use of primary source material, team or group teaching, an interdisciplinary theme, and an element of independent study. Honors courses include intensive reading, writing, and research.

Honors courses may be Honors sections of core curriculum courses, or courses that are used to meet elective, capstone, and diversity requirements. Some courses are designated HON in the [Course Schedule](#) (e.g. HON 490, section 001, Honors Thesis I). Other courses are indicated in the Course Schedule by department with the designation "H" as part of the section number (e.g. ENGL 102, section H24). A complete listing of Honors courses and descriptions is available on the Honors Program Website under Current Members, Honors Classes. Only Honors students may enroll in Honors courses. To register on ePaws for an Honors class, students must obtain the call numbers from the Honors Program or from the Honors Website.

- **Honors Contract Courses in the Major** - The Honors Program welcomes proposals from Honors students who elect to earn Honors credit by enrolling in a non-Honors course in their major. **Course contracts are available only for 300 and 400 level courses in the major.** Honors Contract Courses in the Major give students an opportunity to broaden and deepen their experience in their major fields. Honors in the Major implies a qualitative enhancement of the course, not necessarily a quantitative enhancement. Students who undertake Honors Contract Courses in the Major must demonstrate additional knowledge and skills beyond the content and requirements of the regular class.

An Honors student contracts a course by contacting a faculty member in the student's major and asking the faculty member to allow the student to take a scheduled non-Honors course for Honors credit. With the assistance of the instructor, the student completes the *Honors Contract Course in the Major* form available online. The type of academic activity described in the Honors contract must go beyond the normal course content and requirements. Work may include additional readings or assignments, written projects not expected of other students in the course, guided independent study or individual research, class presentations, additional student-faculty discussions, co-teaching, or any

acceptable project that examines the course material in more depth than the regular class. The Honors contract requires the submission of the course syllabus, a detailed description of the project and a timetable for the completion of the academic project. The Honors Contract in the Major must be reviewed, approved, and signed by the Director of the Honors Program.

The deadline for filing the contract with the Honors Program Office is the first day of class after October 1 for the fall semester, and the first day of class after March 1 for the spring semester. The student must complete the honors component of the course with an overall course grade of B- or better in order to receive Honors credit for the course.

- **Honors Points** - Each semester, in addition to Honors courses, the Honors Program offers many opportunities for Honors students to earn Honors credits. Termed "Honors point" activities, these non-traditional units are earned for significant, recognized activities that provide enrichment for general non-classroom education. Honors point activities include attendance at Special Topic Seminars; faculty lectures, workshops, and campus-wide symposia; participation in the Mentoring Program or other service learning or community projects; involvement in student retreats; or involvement in sanctioned Honors Program events. Honors points must be approved by the Honors Program. The participation level required and the points earned vary for each activity. A current list of Programs, Dates, Locations, and Times, and equivalent [honors points](#) are maintained on the Honors website and at the Honors Program Office.

NOTE: No Honors points are awarded retroactively. No points are awarded for activities required for credit in other classes nor are points awarded for activities where students are paid.

To earn Honors points, an Honors student must write a 3-5 page typed analytical essay reacting to the learning experience. Essays are graded pass/fail. In order to earn the honors point, an essay must receive a "pass." If an essay receives a "fail," the student has the opportunity to rewrite the paper for a "pass."

A passing essay is one that is fully developed, exhibits significant thought into the analysis, and contains no grammatical or typing errors. The paper should demonstrate 1) familiarity with the content of the material/event, 2) a critical analysis of the material, 3) the application of a personal perspective, and 4) relevant insights. A failing essay is one that lacks analysis and depth. Additional [criteria](#) is listed on the Honors website.

- ❖ **Special Topic Seminars and Workshops** - The Honors Program sponsors a series of [seminars](#), lectures, faculty lectures, and workshops each semester. Faculty across campus and guest lecturers present their research interests. Representatives from various departments offer academic and professional workshops. Each seminar or workshop lasts one to one and a half hours. In

order to receive one Honors point in a given semester, a student must attend all the seminars and write a 3-5 page analytical essay for each seminar. To receive 1/2 Honors point, the student must attend at least half of the seminars in a given semester and write a 3-5 page analytical essay.

- ❖ **Campus-Wide Symposia** - Various campus-wide [symposia](#) and programs are offered each semester. Honors credit for participation in these events varies. In order to receive Honors points, a student is required to attend and participate fully, then write a 3-5-page essay.
- ❖ **Honors Mentoring Program** - The Honors Program is committed to community service and civic engagement. It encourages Honors students to perform a minimum of 13 hours of approved service each semester. The Mentoring Program is an off-campus project that matches Honors students to teachers in the local primary schools. To receive an Honors point for the Mentoring Program students must fulfill the service and complete a 3-5 page reflective essay on their Honors Mentoring experience.
- ❖ **Service Learning and Community Projects** - The Honors Program strongly encourages the active participation of students in their local and university communities. It considers appropriate Honors points for on-campus and off-campus participation in service activities and projects. Honors points must be arranged prior to the activity.
- ❖ **Student Retreats** - The Honors Program sponsors a number of student [retreats](#) annually. The First-Year Honors Student Retreat is scheduled for the weekend prior to the beginning of the fall semester. An All Honors Retreat is scheduled for students during the spring semester. A service-oriented retreat is scheduled during the school year. To receive an Honors point for attending a retreat, the student must participate in the entire retreat and write a 3-5-page reaction essay reflecting on the experience.
- ❖ **Fine Arts Component** - Attendance at a [fine arts performance series](#) such as the Nevada Repertory Theatre, the Nevada Opera, or the Performing Arts Series qualifies for Honors points. Complimentary tickets are often available in the Honors Program office. After each event, the Honors student must write a well thought out 3-5-page review essay.
- ❖ **Involvement in Research Activities** – The Honors Program encourages involvement in research activities. With approval by the Honors Program, prior to the event a student may earn Honors points when the student reads a paper at a conference, presents his/her work in a campus seminar, or participates in a national or regional conference. Evidence of attendance must be presented to the Honors Program after the event.
- ❖ **Other Honors Opportunities** - While the Honors Program Office attempts to keep abreast of all Honors point activities, it may miss some scheduled events. If a student wants to attend an activity that he/she considers to be an Honors event, the student should write a brief proposal that includes a description of the activity, an overview of the student's involvement in that activity, and suggested credit for participation in the activity. The request is submitted to the Honors Program Office **prior to participation** in the event. The Honors Program either approves or rejects the request.

International Study – The Honors Program considers international study an enriching academic and personal experience. A variety of opportunities are available for Honors students interested in studying internationally. The University of Nevada, Reno belongs to the [University Studies Abroad Consortium](#) (USAC), a university cooperative that currently includes 31 programs in 21 countries. International study opportunities are available in a variety of subjects with many courses taught by faculty from universities in the United States. In addition, the [National Collegiate Honors Council](#) offers study abroad opportunities annually. In order to receive Honors credit for international study, students must complete the *Honors 410 Area Study* form on line. Honors credits must be arranged prior to registration and travel.