

BYU HONORS PROGRAM

CREATING NEW
KNOWLEDGE

Logan •
Ogden •
Salt Lake City •
Lehi •
Provo •
Nephi •
Moab •
Fishlake National Forest
Monticello •
Parowan •
Cedar City •
Dixie National Forest
St. George

2019
YEAR IN
REVIEW

Dani Hallows, current Honors student,
aspiring meteorologist, intern at KUTV.

OUR MISSION

We aim to develop student-scholars from across the university who will become broad thinkers, creative problem solvers, and influential leaders.

Our mission is achieved by cultivating:

- ◆ Academic Excellence
- ◆ Community of Scholars
- ◆ Interdisciplinary Thinking
- ◆ Skills of Inquiry

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

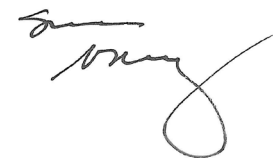
Fall of 2019 marked the beginning of my fourth year as the Honors Program Director. Students I started with are now progressing toward their Honors theses. In fact, we are on track to set a record in 2020 for the number of theses completed in a year. Our ultimate goal is to help students contribute to the growing body of new knowledge, art, and discovery. It's exciting to see an increasing number of our students doing just that! This 2019 report celebrates *Creating New Knowledge*.

The center pages feature Honors theses published this year and shows dissemination around the world. You will see an astounding number of downloads in over 115 nations. In addition, more students are presenting their Honors work at conferences and publishing in disciplinary venues. Funding from a recently formed endowment will help facilitate even more opportunities for dissemination of Honors thesis research going forward.

The report also highlights a few new initiatives to support students throughout their Honors experience. In the introductory course, top faculty from a variety of disciplines share how they create new knowledge and art. Students participate in ongoing thesis workshops to better understand the research and creative process in their respective disciplines. We continue to integrate student advisement and Honors curriculum to advance progress in Honors and develop leadership skills, and in 2019, we held our second annual Honors Conference allowing students to share their Honors Thesis and Great Questions research with others in the Honors community.

In offering the *BYU Honors Experience*, we enjoy the ongoing contributions of faculty across the campus, support from administration, dedicated staff and exceptional students. It is a pleasure to associate with such great people. Give me a call if you too would like to become involved!

Spencer Magleby,
Honors Program Director



NEW THIS YEAR

Prestigious Scholarships

The mission of the Committee for Prestigious Scholarships is to seek out BYU's most outstanding students and assist them as they pursue prestigious national scholarships to attend the top graduate schools in the world. Now housed in the Honors Program, our new Scholarship Coordinator, Audrey Hanks, works with the Honors Associate Director to advise junior and senior students in applying for top-tier scholarships like the Truman, Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, and Gates-Cambridge Fellowships.

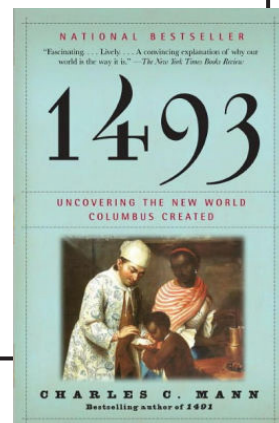


Thesis Workshops

This year we launched an ongoing series of thesis workshops designed to help students through each step of the thesis process. Advisors and experienced students provide instruction and advice on a series of rotating topics including *Finding a Topic*, *Forming a Committee*, *Writing a Thesis Proposal*, and *Defending & Publishing Your Thesis*. Our students particularly enjoy connecting and working with peer thesis mentors with expertise in their specific fields of study.

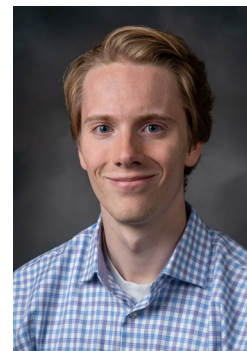
Book of the Year

We love the idea of a common read among our Honors community, so we introduced an Honors Book of the Year. Participating Honors students, faculty, and staff together are reading *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created* by Charles Mann. Our aim is to bring together a community of many differing disciplines and experts—to quite literally be “on the same page,” as we explore interdisciplinary connections from 1493 to today. A series of discussions, lectures, museum visits, and events focus on the text, culminating with an upcoming visit in 2020 from the author, Charles Mann.



HONORS SCHOLARSHIPS

2019-2020 RECIPIENTS OF THE ROBERT K. THOMAS AND KHONA AWARDS



NATHAN COLEMAN
Statistics

“My experience at BYU is synonymous with the Honors Program. I have begun working on my thesis titled: “Cancer Mortality Risk, Fine Particulate Air Pollution, and Smoking in a Large, Representative Cohort of US Adults. This scholarship has helped me focus on my education and development as a student.”



MEREDITH HANNA
Art History &
Curatorial Studies

“The Honors Program is a cherished part of my college experience. My Honors Thesis is focused on a group of 18th century portraits by George Knapp. With the prospect of an exciting, yet costly graduate education in the future, and a wedding this year, this scholarship helped alleviate pressing concerns.”



MADALYN LYMAN
Portuguese

“I love Honors and writing my thesis has been an enlightening journey. The topic of my thesis centers around Portuguese author Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen's poetry. This scholarship not only helps me finish my undergraduate degree with Honors, but will help me pursue my dream of becoming a physical therapist.”



BRYAN SAMUELSON
Marketing

“The Honors Program has been the highlight of my undergraduate experience. My Honors thesis explores persuasion in advertising. The scholarship goes a long way toward allowing me to focus on finishing school strong and maintain good financial habits.”



LOGAN THORNELOE
Computer Engineering

“I love being able to see connections to other disciplines in my engineering coursework. My Honors Thesis compares multi- and single-class neural networks in segmenting knee cartilage. This scholarship is critical in achieving my future goals, allowing me to focus on my honors research and kick-start my academic and professional goals.”



JAMES WHITE
Information Systems

“For my thesis I am studying the development of social capital in the university setting using geo-data generated by mobile phones. Schools, corporations and other social organizations could benefit from this research. The scholarship allows me to do my best work on my thesis and focus on school.”

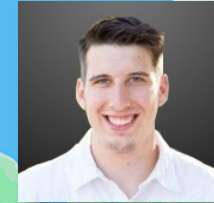
HONORS THESIS CIRCULATION

The Honors Program now publishes completed Honors theses online. Our students' work is available to scholars around the world at scholarsarchive.byu.edu. The map shows readership in 2019.



Tinesha Zandamela, 2018 Honors Graduate in Sociology. Her thesis, "Understanding Bi-racial Women's Identity Formation," seeks to identify themes and patterns concerning biracial women's experiences in the U.S.

168 downloads



Dallin Colgrove, 2019 Honors Graduate in Mechanical Engineering. His thesis, "Steering System for SAE Baja," examines the different types of steering geometry for the BYU Baja vehicle.

566 downloads

STUDENT THESIS HIGHLIGHTS

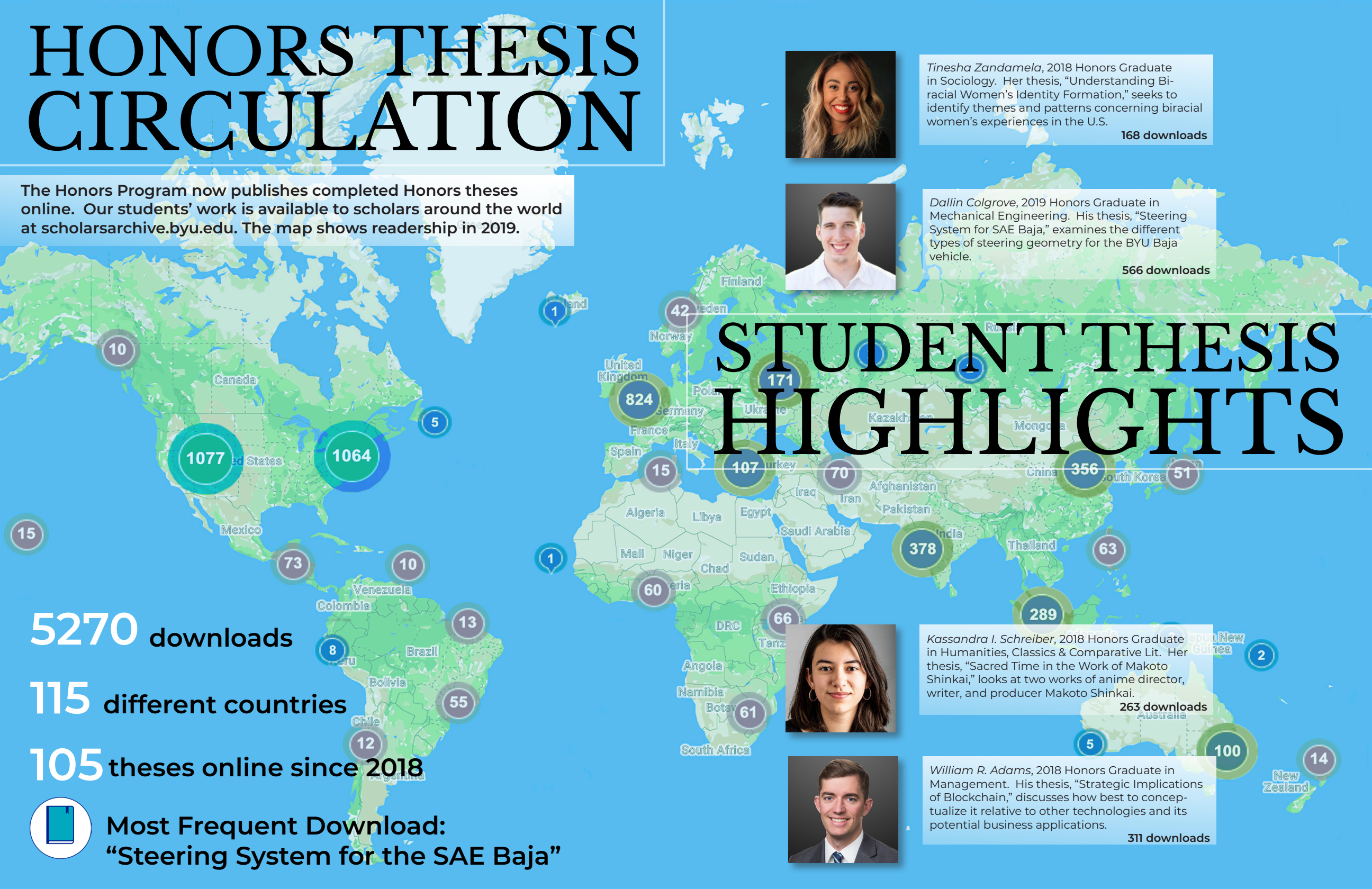
5270 downloads

115 different countries

105 theses online since 2018



Most Frequent Download:
"Steering System for the SAE Baja"



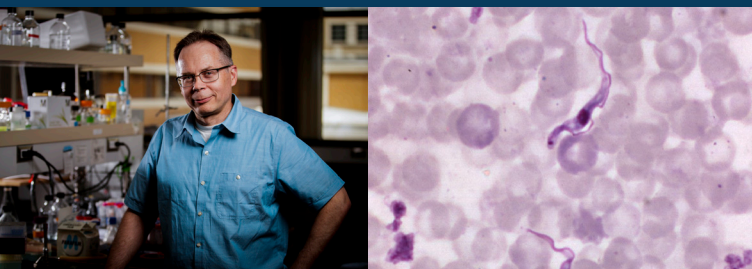
COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Top researchers and artists from across campus introduce students in the **Honors 120** course to a wide variety of disciplines and perspectives. This year, twelve faculty shared great questions and experiences in their fields, demonstrating how they create new knowledge and artistic works. Here we highlight just a few:



Jani Radebaugh (Geology) discussed her ongoing work with NASA to prepare for its Dragonfly Mission to Titan, one of Saturn's moons. NASA plans to send a drone to explore the surface of the planet.

Brent Adams (Animation) shared a short called "Grendel", which won BYU's Center for Animation its 6th Student Academy Award. He also talked about the amount of work and detail that goes into creating such a film.



Ken Christensen (Chemistry) presented his research on the tsetse fly, which transmits African sleeping sickness. Using biosensors, he monitored the parasites' glucose levels in an effort to find a better cure for the sickness.

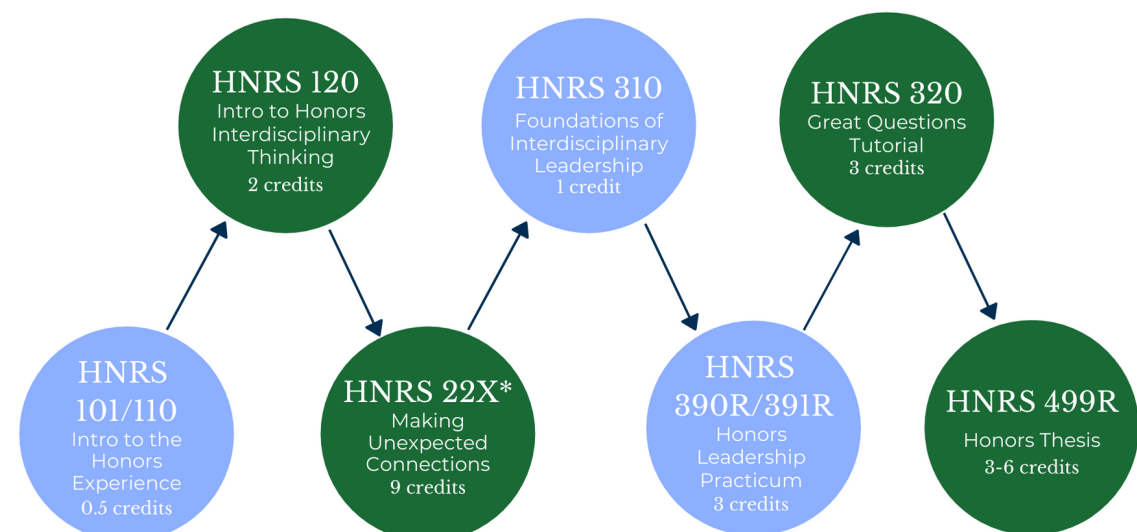
Rosalind Hall (Music) talked about her experience directing the largest collegiate male chorus in the country, BYU Men's Chorus. She shared her insights on creating excellence in choral music.



NEW IN 2020

Our Honors curriculum reflects the dynamic nature of the program and continues to evolve to meet contemporary needs. Changes coming in 2020 (in blue) are aimed to further enhance the Honors experience for our students.

Here's what's in store:



*varying subjects offered

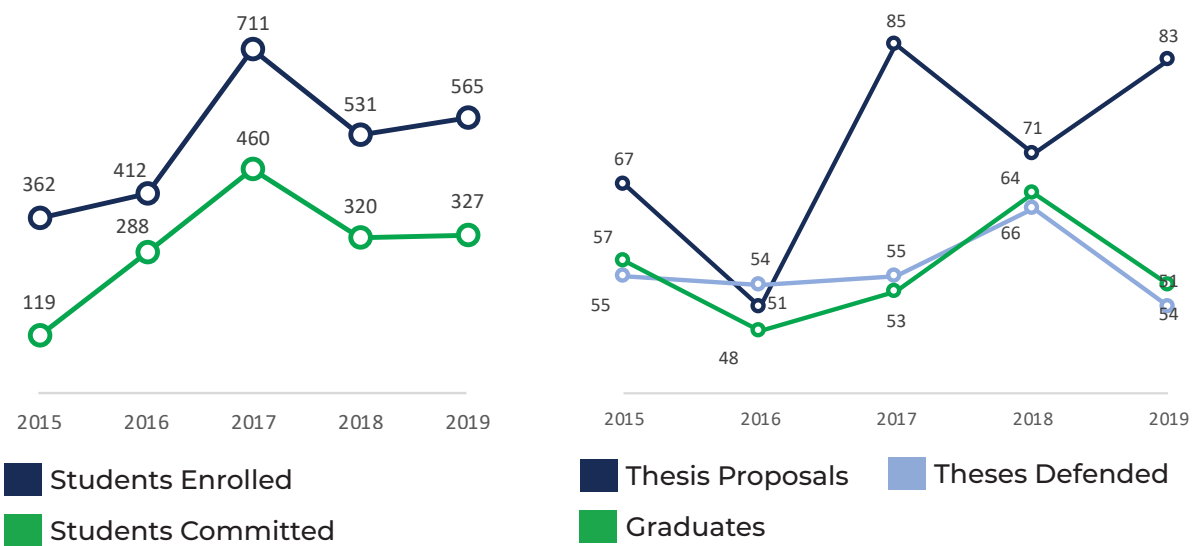
Learn more about the Honors courses on our website: honors.byu.edu

OBJECTIVES

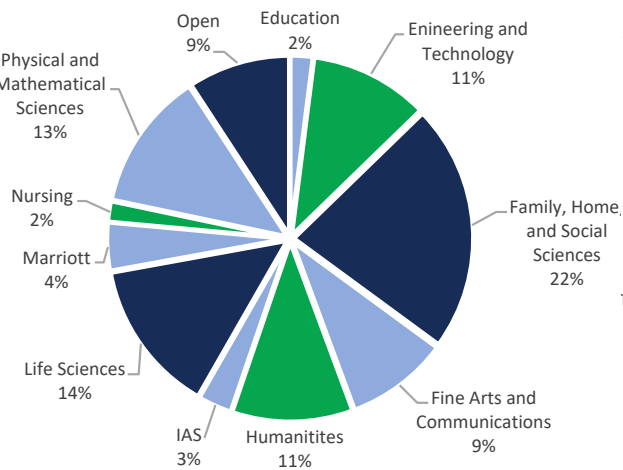
- ◆ Raise retention rates with an introductory course
 - ◆ Define a credited leadership experience
- ◆ Assign appropriate credit for the Honors thesis
- ◆ Provide opportunities for disciplinary and study abroad credit

2019 STATISTICS

Enrollment and Thesis Trends

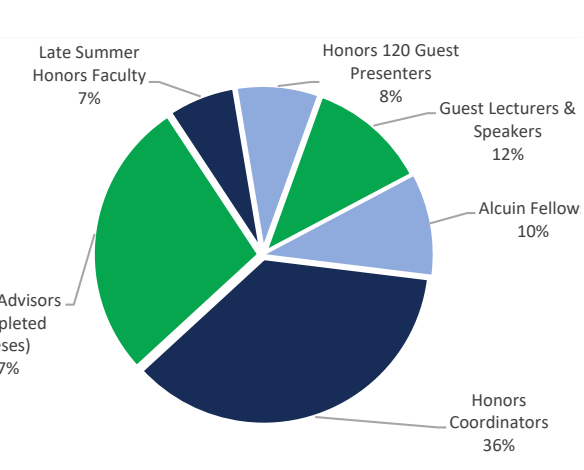


Students By College



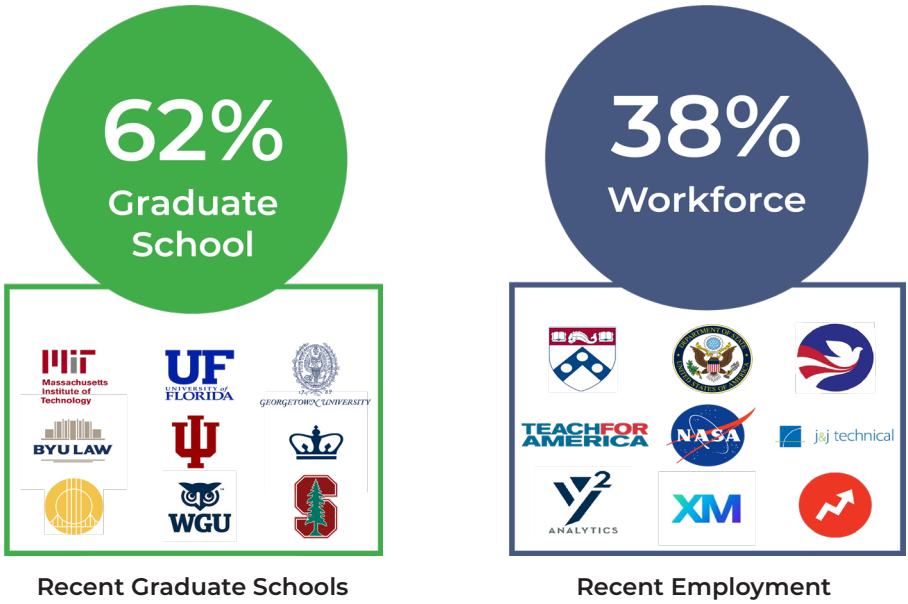
1249 Students

Contributing Faculty



196 Faculty

GRADUATE PLACEMENT



2019 Honors Graduates

Alcuin Fellows | 2019 - 2021

Matt Bekker | Geography
Family, Home, and Social Sciences

Dean Duncan | Theatre & Media Arts
Fine Arts & Communications

Luke Howard | Music
Fine Arts & Communications

Jacob Rugh | Sociology
Family, Home, & Social Sciences

Kurt Sandholtz | Management
Marriott School of Business

Kerry Soper | Comparative Arts & Letters
Humanities

Alcuin Fellows | 2018 - 2020

John Bennion | English
Humanities

John Colton | Physics
Physical & Mathematical Sciences

Aaron Eastley | English
Humanities

Julianne Grose | Molecular & Micro Biology
Life Sciences

Cynthia Hallen | Linguistics
Humanities

Paul Richards | Civil Engineering
Engineering

Patrick Steffen | Psychology
Family, Home, & Social Sciences

Evan Ward | History
Family, Home, & Social Sciences

Alcuin Fellows | 2017 - 2019

Dennis Cutchins | English
Humanities

Michael Call | Comparative Arts & Letters
Humanities

Samuel Otterstrom | Geography
Family, Home, & Social Sciences

Brian Poole | MMBio
Life Sciences

Mark Purves | Russian
Humanities

The Honors Program is part of

BYU | Undergraduate Education



HONORS PROGRAM
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Designed by Hannah M. Earl and NataLee Morgan

BYU Honors Program Administration
102 MSRB
Provo, UT 84604
honors@byu.edu
<http://honors.byu.edu>

Spencer Magleby | Director

Dennis Cutchins | Associate Director

Julie Radle | Assistant Director

Vika Filimoeatu | Advisement Supervisor