



# HONORS PROGRAM

## BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Q: What are the requirements for graduation with University Honors?**

- Complete required Honors Program courses (HONRS)
- Complete an Honors leadership development experience
- Complete the Honors thesis
- An overall GPA of 3.0 or above
- Get a B or higher in your Honors classes

Click [here](#) for a full list of requirements.

### **Q: Are honors classes more difficult or demanding?**

A: Unlike high school, Honors classes don't require more coursework or advanced skill levels in particular fields, nor are they an "honors" section of a regular department course offering. Honors (HONRS) courses offer a higher level of engagement, participation, and unique teaching/learning opportunities. Honors courses are usually discussion-based, include hands-on activities and projects, and combine different perspectives and disciplines in unexpected ways.

### **Q: Who teaches Honors courses?**

A: Honors core courses are taught by top faculty recruited from across campus on a rotating basis. All of the Unexpected Connections (200 level) HONRS courses are team-taught, creating a unique mix of disciplines and ideas in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, Honors students have many opportunities to interact with exceptional faculty in discussions, thesis research projects, lectures, and activities unique to the Honors experience. You can learn more about our faculty and administrators on our [Honors directory](#).

### **Q: Do majors or departments offer Honors courses or sections:**

A: No. All current Honors courses are housed in the Honors Program and are listed as HONRS courses. Departmental honors sections (i.e., MATH 110 H, WRTG 150 H) expired years ago with new program objectives and requirements designed to better meet the needs of students in a rapidly changing world.

### **Q: Is Honors mostly Humanities or Liberal Arts majors?**

A: No. The Honors community comprises students from majors across campus. Broadly speaking this includes 38% STEM, 33% social science, and 20% humanities majors. Another 9% are open majors. This variety offers students a great way to meet, learn from, and work with students with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and expertise. You can see a more detailed breakdown by college on the [About page](#) on our Honors website.

**Q: Will it take me extra time to graduate?**

A: With an early start and careful planning, students can complete the Honors Program in a typical number of semesters. The Unexpected Connections courses each meet two GE requirements, allowing students to complete 6 GE requirements with 3 courses. With other Honors course requirements, the total number of required credits for Honors students (21) is marginally above non-Honors (18 GE), though often the Leadership Development experience and Honors thesis meet major requirements simultaneously, making the Honors Program credit neutral.

**Q: How long does the thesis take?**

A: Honors students complete a minimum of 3.0 hours of thesis credit, which translates to approximately 140 hours of independent work. Work on a thesis project generally occurs over the course of two to three semesters. All theses (including creative projects) require a written component, though the length of a written thesis varies depending on discipline standards in students' chosen fields of study.

**Q: If I'm not an Honors student; can I still do an Honors thesis?**

A: No.

**Q: What scholarships are available to Honors students?**

A: The Robert K. Thomas Scholarship and the Khona Family Scholarship are reserved exclusively for advanced Honors students. Honors also provides funding for thesis research and conference participation. Many Honors students also pursue prestigious scholarships for graduate school. The Office of Prestigious Scholarships (housed in the Honors Program) offers resources and advisement for these national and international awards.

**Q: Am I graduating with a Latin distinction? (i.e., *summa cum laude*)**

A: Scholastic honors are determined each graduation for undergraduate students only and are calculated based on the BYU GPA and total GPA of students who have been submitted to graduate by the University Registrar. These distinctions are distinct from the Honors Program. Only students who complete all Honors Program requirements graduate with BYU University Honors, the highest academic distinction awarded to undergraduates at BYU.

**Q: Can I sign up for HONRS 120 without being an enrolled Honors student?**

A: Yes. The purpose of HONRS 120 is to introduce students to the program, and to the unique interdisciplinary approach.

**Q: Can I sign up for other (200-400 level) HONRS courses without being an enrolled Honors student?**

No. You must complete HONRS 120, and be a committed Honors student to enroll in all other (HONRS) courses.

**Q: If I join the Honors Program but then later don't want to do it anymore, can I leave the program?**

A: Yes; however, we encourage prospective students to understand all of the requirements prior to committing to the program. Please consider whether the Honors Program aligns with your educational goals.

**Q: When should I do a Commitment Interview?**

A: You should schedule an appointment with an Honors advisor after you are enrolled in or have completed HONRS 120. You cannot take HONRS courses past HONRS 120 without having completed the commitment interview.

**Q: Do my AP credits count toward my total Honors credits?**

A: No, they do not.

**Q: Do I have to take an Honors course every semester?**

A: No, each student's schedule is flexible and varies depending on major requirements and other commitments. We do recommend HONRS 120 (the introductory course) your first semester and one or two 200-level HONRS courses each semester following for your first two years or so, since that is when you will be taking most of your GE courses. As soon as these courses are complete, we recommend that you take HONRS 320. Our Honors advisors will work with you to design a customized plan to graduation.

**Q: I have other questions or want to learn more. Who can I contact?**

A: Our Honors advisors are happy to answer your questions anytime! You can reach them at [honors@byu.edu](mailto:honors@byu.edu), (801) 422-5497, or stop by 102 MSRB (Maeser Building, SW corner of campus). Our regular office hours are M-F, 8 am to 5 pm.