



The Honors College at Eastern Michigan University

Student Handbook

2025-2027

Note: Students may always choose to follow a newer version of the Handbook but are also allowed to graduate under the requirements in the Handbook from the year in which they entered EMU or joined The Honors College. They may not follow an Honors curriculum that was in force *before* they entered EMU unless they were in a community college Honors program that has an articulation agreement with the EMU Honors College. In that case, they can follow the requirements in any Handbook that covers the time they were in the community college program.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE HONORS COLLEGE

Welcome to The Honors College at Eastern Michigan University (EMU)! The EMU Honors College takes pride in offering a high-quality educational experience within an affordable, comprehensive university. The Honors College is home to a highly accomplished group of students and faculty and is designed to foster an Honors spirit that comprises intellectual curiosity, academic achievement, leadership, a passion for experiences that cross cultural and linguistic boundaries, and the bond between individuals and the larger community. Success in Honors requires creativity, persistence, and dedication, as students develop their skills and talents to achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals.

Each semester, students may choose from an array of engaging classes that meet General Education, major, and/or minor requirements. Talented, passionate professors, many of whom are recognized experts in their academic disciplines, teach Honors courses. Typically, Honors sections are limited to 20 to 25 students to encourage collaboration and rich interactions, where students help guide discussion, challenge their peers, and take the lead on projects. Expectations for performance are high, but our students are capable of meeting the challenges ahead and we provide them with support to help them reach their goals.

An Honors College experience includes more than earning high grades. We invite Honors students to soar higher by challenging themselves beyond the classroom – by becoming student leaders, volunteering in the community, engaging in athletics and the arts, and exploring the intellectual, cultural, and social diversity of the university, community, and world. Honors students are encouraged to push themselves academically, personally, professionally, and culturally by attending theater productions, lectures, and workshops, studying abroad, learning a new language, founding or leading campus organizations, pursuing professional opportunities, and more. We live in a diverse and exciting world, and, as students and citizens, we are responsible for understanding the richness of that world and contributing to the well-being of our planet and our fellow humans. Such challenges require us to learn, imagine, reflect, collaborate, and work toward the future we seek.

This Handbook explains what The Honors College expects of Honors students. We encourage you to read it carefully and refer to it often. You can learn about Honors College events and opportunities by reviewing our weekly newsletter (delivered to your EMU email weekly during the academic year and monthly during the summer), website, and social media outlets. Honors College Peer Advisors are also available and eager to help answer questions and assist you in solving problems. Be sure to stop by The Honors College building at 511 W. Forest Avenue or email us at EMUHonors@emich.edu.

Welcome to The Honors College!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ann R. Eisenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" and last name "Eisenberg" clearly legible.

*Ann R. Eisenberg, Ph.D.
Dean of The Honors College*

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2025-27

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Benefits of Honors College Membership

Honors College students in good standing receive multiple benefits from their Honors College membership:

Dedicated Honors Sections and Honors Contracts

Honors students can enroll in Honors-only sections of many General Education courses (and, occasionally, courses that meet major or minor requirements). Honors courses typically allow for greater engagement with course material, peers, and faculty. Honors students may also take upper-division Honors courses through an Honors Contract with a faculty member. This Contract serves as an agreement between student and faculty member that outlines projects or other coursework deemed appropriate for earning Honors credit (see [here](#) for more details on Honors contracts).

Small Classes

Honors sections are capped at 18 to 25 students, depending on the course, allowing students the opportunity to work more closely with faculty and peers.

Honors Faculty/Staff Advising

Honors students have access to advising and support from the administrative team of The Honors College. Honors College staff go beyond helping students select courses for the coming semester. They outline 4-year plans, provide students with information about professional opportunities, and help students develop research plans and interact with various offices on campus – and more.

Students can schedule an appointment with an Honors College academic advisor through Starfish or the [Advising page](#) of The Honors College website. *All first-semester EMU students **must** see an academic advisor before they can register for second-semester classes.*

Honors Peer Advising

Honors students also have the option of making an appointment to talk with an Honors peer advisor. Peer advisors are current Honors students who offer tailored guidance and advice to students throughout their time at EMU. Peer Advisors serve as an initial point of contact for concerns or questions about EMU resources, Honors College pathways, and General Education requirements. They provide information about: declaring or changing a major, minor, or concentration; registration processes; running degree audits; tracking completion of Honors requirements; reading the catalog; finding service and leadership opportunities on and off campus; EMU and Honors policies and procedures; and strategies for academic success. Peer Advisors work closely with Honors Academic Advising & Student Services staff members to provide accurate information and advice about The Honors College and the University.

Students can schedule an appointment with an Honors peer advisor on the [Peer Advising page](#) of The Honors College website.

Priority Registration

Honors College members in Good Standing enjoy priority registration – the opportunity to register for classes on the first day that registration for the next semester opens. This benefit allows Honors students to build schedules around Honors courses while space in other classes they need is still available. Although

Honors students can expect to obtain a favorable course schedule, the aim of priority registration is to ensure that students can enroll in Honors course sections whenever possible and to help Honors students move smoothly through the complex degree plans they often design. Dates and instructions for priority registration are communicated to students through the *Tuesday Times* newsletter and emails.

Honors Housing: The Honors Living and Learning Community

All members of The Honors College are eligible to live in Honors housing (with Presidential Scholars *required* to live in Honors housing for their first two years). The Honors Living and Learning Community is located in Downing Hall, which is directly across the street from the north side of Pray-Harrold Hall, the largest classroom building on campus. The Honors community of scholars allows students to reside with peers who share their commitment to academic achievement and success.

Honors Social and Intellectual Events

Each academic year, The Honors College hosts a variety of social and intellectual events that enable Honors students to build relationships with other Honors students (and Honors staff members) and enrich their academic horizons. Examples of such events include the Star Lecture Series, the Professional Development series, game nights, a fall festival, a spring picnic, stress-relieving events (e.g., a “Ross and Relax” evening of painting, visits with Tinker, EMU’s facility dog, pancake breakfasts with the Dean, travel to the Stratford Festival, a book club, a crochet/knitting club, the Black Honors Student Organization (BHSO), and more. Students can learn more about Honors social and academic events through the weekly newsletter and the [Honors event calendar](#) on The Honors College website.

Honors Commuter Lounge (& Other Honors Building Spaces)

The ground floor of The Honors College building (located at 511 West Forest Ave. on the southeast corner of campus) houses a Commuter Lounge for the use of Honors students who need a quiet place to study, the use of a computer, or a space where they can pass the time and relax between classes. Although the lounge is intended for commuting students, all Honors students are welcome to come and hang out. The Commuter Lounge is home to several amenities, including a Keurig coffee station, a snack vending machine, two UV lights to help ward off the winter blues, and a collection of games and puzzles to aid in relaxation.

The ground floor of The Honors College also contains a computer lab for students who need a computer as well as a printer for student use. Students may also request the use of the Commuter Lounge, the conference room, the Reception Hall, and the Auditorium for club meetings and other events. To reserve a room at The Honors College, students must read the [Policies and Procedures Document](#), which outlines the requirements for reserving space within The Honors College, who is eligible to reserve space, and what is offered with each space. After reading the document, students should fill out the [Room Reservation Request form](#). Once the request is submitted, a member of The Honors College staff will follow up within two days of the submission. The form must be completed at least one week in advance of the event, but students are encouraged to submit their request as soon as they know when the event will take place.

Work Experience as Student Fellows

Becoming an Honors College Student Fellow provides select Honors students the opportunity to work on projects and initiatives with the Honors administrative team. Only members of The Honors College in good standing may work as Student Fellows. The Student Fellows program is designed to give Honors students experience working in higher education and expand their professional and leadership skills while they assist Honors College staff in offering programming and advising for fellow students. Student Fellows assist The

Honors College with recruitment, programming, communication, office work, and peer advising. Student Fellow positions are advertised through the weekly newsletter and emails (from EMUHonors@emich.edu) at multiple times throughout the academic year.

[Note: Students who have been awarded work-study as part of their financial aid package may use a Student Fellow position as their work-study job. Preference in hiring is given to students with work-study funding. Positions may also be created for Honors students with work-study funding, so if you have work-study funding and need a job, feel free to contact The Honors College.]

Strong Relationships with Faculty

Being a member of The Honors College helps students develop close working relationships with faculty, as early as their few first semesters at EMU. These relationships lead to opportunities for mentorship, research, networking, and involvement on and beyond campus.

Four-Week Library Loan Period

Honors students receive a four-week (28-day), library loan period – seven days longer than for other undergraduate students. This extended library loan period is granted automatically when students use the self check-out system.

Honors Awards and Scholarships

Members of The Honors College who are in Good Standing have the opportunity to obtain additional funding for co-curricular experiences, as described below:

- **Undergraduate Research Fellowships:** The Honors College offers competitive fellowships to Honors College students in good standing who are completing research and creative projects. Award amounts range from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and students may receive funding for up to three semesters (for a maximum award of \$4,500). The amount of the Fellowship depends on whether the student is working on a Senior Project and whether they have had prior Honors College research funding. Students who receive Undergraduate Research Fellowships must work closely with a faculty mentor, so students apply for funding jointly with a faculty member.
- **Study-Abroad Scholarships:** Honors Study-Abroad Scholarships are available to Honors students who plan to study abroad in the upcoming semester or year. They are designed to help defray costs associated with a study-abroad experience. The value of the award varies by applicant, as does the number of awards per year, depending on available funding.
- **Travel Grants:** Honors College Travel Grants are awarded to students for four purposes: (1) to assist them in participating in an EMU domestic travel course; (2) to help them present their research at an academic or professional conference or workshop in their field; (3) to assist with travel expenses for an unpaid internship; or (4) to allow students to travel for the purpose of data collection for a Senior Project. Students must provide documentation showing that their work has been accepted to (or, at least submitted to) a conference when they request funding for conference attendance. Travel grants are distributed on a first-come/first-served basis until funds are expended. The funding cycle runs from July 1st to June 30th.
- **Anaruth Gordon Honors College Endowed Scholarship:** The Anaruth Gordon Honors College Endowed Scholarship is a gift from EMU Honors alumnus Mark Gordon ('93) to honor his mother, Dr. Anaruth Gordon, who served as Assistant Director of The Honors College at Eastern Michigan

University from 1989 to 1992. Dr. Ruth, as she was known to students, is a lifelong educator who thoroughly enjoyed working with students and appreciated the value of an Honors education. Recipients must have completed a minimum of 12 Honors hours at the time of application. The application deadline is June 1st, and one award of approximately \$500 is distributed each fall.

- **Beatrice Cozetta Jordan Endowed Honors Scholarship:** The Beatrice Cozetta Jordan Scholarship recognizes an EMU student for demonstrating an exemplary commitment to community service, despite personal and financial challenges. Recipients must: be U.S. citizens from either Michigan or New Jersey; be a member of The Honors College or EMU's Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; have a GPA of 3.75; and demonstrate financial need, as designated by the Office of Financial Aid. The application deadline is June 1st, and one award of \$400-\$500 is distributed each year.
- **Black Honors Student Organization Scholarship:** The Black Honors Student Organization (BHSO) Scholarship was created to support a member of BHSO who demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting, supporting, and emulating scholarship within BHSO. The scholarship is open to all BHSO members, regardless of Honors College membership. The application deadline is April 5th, and one award of \$500 is distributed each fall. For more information on the scholarship or how to join the Black Honors Student Organization, please contact cl_bhso@emich.edu.
- **Founder's Award:** The Founder's Award was instituted in 1994 by former director and founder of The Honors Program, Dr. Robert Holkeboer. Its purpose is to aid students in pursuing an experiential learning opportunity, such as study abroad, an unpaid internship, involvement in research, or a workshop or certificate course. Two to three awards of \$400-\$750 are offered each year. The application deadline is June 1st for the following summer or academic year.
- **Henry and Minnie Harden Endowed Honors Scholarship:** The Henry and Minnie Harden Endowed Honors Scholarship recognizes a student who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to community service, despite personal and financial challenges. Recipients must: be U.S. citizens from Michigan or New Jersey and a member of The Honors College or Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; have a GPA of 3.75; and demonstrate financial need, as designated by the Office of Financial Aid. The application deadline is June 1st, and one award of \$400-\$500 is distributed each fall.
- **Ross A. Oliver Student Leadership Endowed Scholarship:** The Oliver Student Leadership Scholarship was established in 2019 by Honors alum Ross A. Oliver to support students who demonstrate exemplary leadership in the campus community, particularly leadership that encourages diversity. Although the scholarship is open to all students, preference is given to members of The Honors College. One award of approximately \$1000 is offered each year. The application deadline is June 1st for the following academic year.
- **Susan and John Ullrich Endowed Scholarship:** The Ullrich Scholarship was created to recognize EMU students for their leadership outside of their course of study. Juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher who participate in athletics, clubs, student government, community volunteerism, or social initiatives are eligible to apply. The Honors College staff selects recipients and preference is given to members of the Honors College, although students who are not members of The Honors College are eligible to apply. Typically, two to three awards of \$500 to \$1500 are offered each year. The application deadline is June 1st for the following academic year.
- **Thomas Sidlik Leadership Scholarship:** The Thomas Sidlik Honors Leadership Scholarships were established with a gift from Regent Emeritus Thomas Sidlik, who served on the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents from 2005-2012. Mr. Sidlik was a driving force behind the financing and completion of the Student Center, the addition and renovation of the Science Complex, the

development of a new Public Safety building and a campus beautification project, the completion of an indoor practice facility, and the renovation of multiple other campus buildings. The Sidlik Leadership Scholarships recognize Honors students who are working to make their mark on the EMU campus and surrounding community. Ten new awards of \$1000 are distributed each academic year.

Students can learn more about these Honors scholarships and fellowships and find application forms on the [Scholarships page](#) of The Honors College website.

Assistance with Applications for Major External Scholarships

The Honors College also coordinates student applications for several major external scholarships, including the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the Rhodes Scholarship, the Marshall Scholarship, the Mitchell Scholarship, and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program. These scholarships and fellowships are highly competitive and, in some cases, students must obtain a university nomination to apply. Even when formal university sponsorship is not required, we strongly recommend that students work with Honors College administrators on their applications. Students should plan well in advance to apply, as these scholarship applications often require multiple steps and the writing of multiple drafts of materials. Beginning early allows students to assemble the strongest application possible. Students should contact Faculty Fellow Dr. Aaron Liepman to discuss the Goldwater Scholarship (designed for students interested in graduate study and research careers in STEM fields) or the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (which provides 3 years of support for PhD-level studies in STEM fields) and the Dean of The Honors College for more information about other national scholarships.

The Graduate School administers the Fulbright Scholarship, which provides students the opportunity to study abroad for a full year in the first few years following their graduation with a Bachelor's degree. Interested students should contact Dr. Carla Damiano at cdamiano@emich.edu by May of the year preceding their intended graduation for more information about the Fulbright Scholarship. Students interested in the Boren Award, which provides full financial support for the study of a wide range of languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, and Swahili, should contact Dr. Jeff Popko, Head of the Department of World Languages, at apopko@emich.edu.

Students can learn more about the purpose and requirements for these national scholarships and fellowships on the [National Scholarships page](#) of The Honors College website.

Publications and Conference Presentations

Honors students have multiple opportunities to disseminate their original research and creative work.

- The EMU Undergraduate Symposium. The Undergraduate Symposium takes place annually on the last Friday in March and showcases undergraduate research. Many Honors students present their Senior Project or the results of the research for their Undergraduate Research Fellowship awards at this event. Students also present on research projects they completed in EMU classes or at summer research programs.
- Professional conferences in nearly every discipline and field are held at the state, regional, national, and international levels. Honors students have been privileged to present at such conferences, sometimes on their own and sometimes collaboratively with faculty members.

- Honors conferences, such as *The Mid-East Honors Association (MEHA)* and *The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC)*, offer opportunities for students to share their work with Honors students and faculty members from other colleges and universities.
- Partial financial support for presenting at conferences may be obtained through departmental scholarships, college scholarships, and/or Honors Travel Grants.

Maintaining Good Standing and Membership in The Honors College

To remain a member of The Honors College in good standing, students must: (1) complete a minimum of one Honors course in each academic year in which they are enrolled in The Honors College; and (2) maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 or higher.¹ Students who do not meet these requirements are placed on Honors Probation and, in some circumstances, they forfeit membership in The Honors College.

Completing Honors Credit and Good Standing

To remain in good standing, students must complete Honors credit in at least one semester of each academic year. If a student does not earn any Honors credit in a given academic year, they are placed on Honors Probation in May of that year. If the student completes an Honors course or Honors contract in the following fall semester, they are returned to good standing in The Honors College. If they do not complete an Honors course or contract in the following fall semester, they forfeit membership in The Honors College.

Although students are not expected to take Honors courses in the summer term (since no designated Honors courses are offered during the summer), a student who completes an Honors contract in a summer term can count that summer term as if the contract had been completed during the previous winter semester. The Honors College does not count semesters in which students are not enrolled at EMU as part of the determination of consecutive semesters.

Once a student reaches 24 hours of Honors credit (enough to earn University Honors), they are encouraged to continue earning Honors credit but are no longer required to do so.

Students should work with The Honors College advising staff to develop their academic plan, so they can complete at least one Honors course every other semester. Students should note, however, that taking a single Honors course in an academic year will not enable them to earn enough Honors hours to graduate with Honors from The Honors College.

Grade Point Average and Good Standing

Students' grade-point averages are checked following each winter term to determine if the student remains in good standing. To remain in good standing, students must maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.3.² If a student's GPA falls between 3.00 and 3.30, they are placed on Honors probation and are strongly encouraged to meet with an Honors College advisor to develop an academic plan to return to good standing. If their GPA continues to drop, they will be required to meet with an Honors College advisor or forfeit membership in The Honors College.

If a student's GPA falls below 3.00, they will forfeit membership in The Honors College.

¹ Students who are seeking Departmental Honors remain in Good standing with a GPA of 3.2. Students who have submitted an Intent to Pursue Departmental Honors form should notify The Honors College at EMUHonors@emich.edu if they are placed on probation but have a GPA of 3.20-3.29.

² See note about the Departmental Honors GPA requirement above.

Honors Probation

Students on Honors Probation retain most of the rights of membership in The Honors College with the exception of the following benefits:

- **Priority Registration.** Students on Honors probation do not have access to priority registration and must wait until their university-assigned registration time to register.
- **Honors Awards and Fellowships.** Students on Honors probation are not eligible to receive any Honors scholarship or fellowship awards.
- **Honors Leadership Positions.** Students on Honors probation are not eligible to work in The Honors College as Student Fellows or serve as student members of The Honors College Advisory Council (HCAC).
- **Graduation with Honors.** Students on Honors probation are not eligible to graduate from EMU with any type of Honors distinction.

Forfeiting Membership in The Honors College

Membership in The Honors College reflects academic success and commitment to leadership, service, and integrity. Students forfeit membership in The Honors College under the following circumstances:

- Failure to maintain a GPA above 3.3 and/or to meet the terms of Honors probation
- Failure to earn Honors credit within the allotted time frame
- Being found guilty of academic misconduct or a serious violation of the University Student Conduct Code

Students whose academic performance leads to their forfeiture of membership in The Honors College will receive notice that they will be removed from The Honors College roster.

[NOTE: When students forfeit membership in The Honors College, they are allowed to continue living in the Honors Living and Learning Community if they have already applied to live in Downing Hall for the current or coming academic year. If they are already enrolled in an Honors course or courses for the fall semester, they are allowed to remain in that course or courses, if they choose to do so.]

Appeal and Readmission

The Honors College sends probationary and dismissal email messages at the end of the winter semester and following the fall Honors Contract deadline for students who did not take an Honors course in the previous academic year. If a student wishes to appeal the decision regarding the loss of their Honors College membership, they must do so in writing within two weeks of receiving notification of their forfeiture of membership. Students may appeal their probationary status as soon as they have registered for an Honors course or submitted an Honors Contract in the following term.

Appeal letters should be addressed to the Dean of The Honors College and submitted to EMUHonors@emich.edu. Following the loss of membership because of a low GPA, students can apply for readmission to The Honors College after they complete an additional 15 hours of university credit and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3.

Honors students are encouraged to speak with the Dean of The Honors College regarding questions about specific requirements for the retention of good standing in The Honors College.

Graduating with Honors: The Honors College Pathways

Academic achievement is at the core of The Honors College. Students are admitted to The Honors College because of their academic achievement in high school, community college, or their first few semesters at EMU. Expectations for students entering The Honors College are straightforward: continue the high level of academic performance that led to your admission to The Honors College; regularly earn Honors credit, either by taking Honors classes or by completing Honors Contracts; and plan to graduate with the distinction associated with one or more of the Honors pathways.

Honors students are offered four pathways to Honors graduation and are encouraged to pursue the Honors pathway or pathways – **University Honors, Transfer Honors, Departmental Honors**, and/or **Highest Honors** – that help them achieve their professional and personal goals. All members of The Honors College are expected to graduate with one of the Honors distinctions.

The following pages explain the “nuts and bolts” of membership in The Honors College. They provide details about each Honors pathway that leads to Honors graduation, the specific requirements for those pathways, and more about Honors courses, contracts, and graduation.

Honors students should take an active role in tracking their Honors requirements as they progress toward their degrees. To that end, Honors students are encouraged to stop by The Honors College office for assistance and for advising. Students can schedule an appointment with an academic advisor through the [Advising page](#) of The Honors College website.

Students can track their completion of Honors curricular and co-curricular requirements in the Supplemental Advising section of their MyEmich account. To check on their Honors progress, students should sign into their MyEmich, click on the Student Academic Services tab, then select “Supplemental Advising Information,” which provides information on all of the Honors requirements the student has met. [Honors Peer Advisors](#) can assist students in learning to access their Supplemental Advising information.

An Overview of Honors Pathways

There are three types of Honors graduation designations available to all Honors students at EMU: University Honors, Departmental Honors, and Highest Honors. Some members of The Honors College may also qualify to earn Transfer Honors. Transfer Honors is restricted to students who:

- Were admitted to EMU as a transfer student with 55+ hours
- Entered EMU as a first-time freshman but completed the Michigan Transfer Agreement while in high school
- Completed 60+ hours in EMU’s Early College Alliance (ECA) program officially becoming a first-time freshman at EMU

All four Honors pathway distinctions include additional expectations that set Honors students’ experiences apart from those of their peers.

- **University Honors** requires:
 - A Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.3
 - Successful completion of 24 Honors credits
 - Attendance at an Undergraduate Research Workshop (see [here](#) for more details)
 - 30 hours of community service
 - Completion of 3 CLIPS activities from 2 different CLIPS Honors Experience categories (+reflection paper for each activity – see [here](#) for more information on CLIPS activities)
 - Attendance at 3 Star Lectures in a single academic year (+reflection paper)

University Honors may be combined with Departmental Honors and/or Highest Honors.

- **Transfer Honors** requires:
 - A Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.3
 - Successful completion of 18 Honors credits
 - Attendance at an Undergraduate Research Workshop (see [here](#) for more details)
 - 20 hours of community service
 - Completion of 2 CLIPS activities from 2 different CLIPS Honors Experience categories (+reflection paper for each activity – see [here](#) for more information on CLIPS activities)
 - Attendance at 3 Star Lectures in a single academic year (+reflection paper)

Transfer Honors may be combined with Departmental Honors.

- **Departmental Honors** requires:
 - A Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.2³
 - Successful completion of at least 12 hours of Honors credit in the major or minor (with some Departments requiring up to 15 hours)
 - Attendance at an Undergraduate Research Workshop (see [here](#) for more details)
 - Submission of an [Intent to Pursue Departmental Honors form](#), signed by the Departmental Honors Advisor
 - A Senior Project Proposal (due prior on the first day of the last month of the student's penultimate semester), signed by a faculty mentor/advisor and the Departmental Honors Advisor
 - A Senior Honors Project, approved by a faculty mentor, the Departmental Honors Advisor, the Department Head or School Director, and The Honors College
 - *Credits earned in the major or minor as part of University or Transfer Honors may count toward Departmental Honors. Students may pursue Departmental Honors in more than one major or minor.*⁴

Departmental Honors may be combined with Transfer Honors or with University Honors and/or Highest Honors.

- **Highest Honors** requires:
 - A Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.70
 - Successful completion of 30 Honors credits

³ Some Departments allow students with a GPA between 3.0 and 3.19 to graduate with Honors. To determine if your Department allows students with a GPA lower than 3.2, you will need to check with the Departmental Honors Advisor or the Dean of The Honors College.

⁴ The Departments or Schools responsible for the majors or minors in question have the right to determine whether a student may use a single Senior Project to earn Departmental Honors for multiple majors or minors.

- Successful completion of requirements for either University Honors OR Departmental Honors (or both)
- 45 hours of community service (including hours earned for University or Transfer Honors)
- A Senior Project Proposal (due prior to the student's final semester and approved by the faculty mentor, either the Departmental Honors Advisor – if the student is also completing Departmental Honors– OR the Associate Dean of The Honors College, and the Dean of The Honors College)
- A Senior Honors project, approved by the faculty mentor, either the Departmental Honors Advisor – if the student is also completing Departmental Honors – OR the Associate Dean of The Honors College, and the Dean of The Honors College
- Completion of 5 CLIPS activities from at least 3 CLIPS Honors Experience categories (+reflection paper for each – see [here](#) for more information on CLIPS activities)

Highest Honors must be combined with either Departmental Honors or University Honors (or both), but cannot be combined with Transfer Honors.

Transfer students who participated in an Honors program at their previous institution may transfer up to 18 Honors hours for use toward University Honors or Highest Honors. The use of transferred Honors hours for Departmental Honors is subject to agreement from the Department in which the student is seeking Departmental Honors. Transfer students who wish to obtain permission to use community service hours completed while enrolled in an Honors program at a previous institution should contact the Dean of The Honors College. Students may not use Honors hours earned at a previous institution to meet requirements for Transfer Honors.

[Note: The four Honors Pathways that lead to graduation with Honors from EMU and The Honors College are different from the institutional Honors categories: *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude* (often referred to as Latin Honors because of their use of Latin terms). The institutional honors categories are based solely on a student's EMU cumulative GPA. Recognition regarding the completion of GPA-based Honors comes from the University and not from The Honors College.]

Honors students are, of course, also subject to all EMU academic policies.

Additional information about the specific requirements for each of the Honors Pathways can be found below.

Details Regarding Requirements for *University Honors*

- **Coursework: 24 Honors credit hours required**
 - These credit hours can be earned through designated Honors sections of General Education courses or courses in the major or minor.
 - These credit hours can also be earned through the completion of Honors contracts (see [here](#) for more details about Honors contracts).
- **Community Service: 30 hours required (see p. 17 for additional details on community service)**
 - The community service requirement equates to 7.5 hours of community service per year for students who take 4 years to complete their degree.
 - Students should avoid waiting until their last year in college to begin earning community service hours.
 - Community service can be completed on or off campus through multiple organizations.
 - Students should report regularly on their completion of community service hours using the Community Service Submission form on the [Forms](#) page of The Honors College website

- **Participation in the Star Lecture Series (in a single academic year)**
 - Attend at least three of the six Star Lectures presented during a *single academic* year and submit a reflection paper about the lectures to EMUHonors@emich.edu.
 - Star Lectures are offered monthly (3 times per semester) in the fall and winter semesters. The day of the week and the format (in person or virtual) varies across the six lectures to maximize students' opportunity to attend 3 of the 6 Star Lectures in a single academic year.
 - Each Star Lecture Series focuses on a specific theme, with all six lectures related to that theme. The theme for the 2025-26 Star Lecture Series is *Be The Change*.
 - Students only need to complete this requirement once, although they are always welcome to attend Star Lectures that interest them.

- **Undergraduate (UG) Research Workshop**
 - This 45- to 50-minute workshop is designed to encourage students to become involved in undergraduate research while they are students at EMU.
 - The workshop focuses on the benefits of undergraduate research, how to become involved in research, the process of completing a Senior Project, and EMU resources for the support of undergraduate research.
 - Because of the value that The Honors College places on undergraduate research, all Honors graduates – regardless of pathway – must attend an Undergraduate Research Workshop so that they can make an informed choice regarding their participation in research.
 - Students who enter The EMU Honors College with fewer than 30 hours of prior college credit) should plan to attend this workshop by the beginning of their third semester at EMU (or at the point when they have chosen a major, whichever comes last). Students who enter The Honors College with 30-50 college credit hours completed should attend this workshop in their first or second semester in The Honors College or once they select a major. Students who enter The Honors College with 50+ college credit hours completed should attend this workshop immediately after joining The Honors College.
 - Students can sign up for an UG Research Workshop on the [Honors event calendar](#) on The Honors College website.

- **Completion of 3 Co-Curricular “CLIPS” Activities from 2 Different CLIPS Honors Experience Categories**
 - Students seeking University Honors are required to participate in 3 co-curricular Honors experiences.
 - The acronym “CLIPS” refers to the 5 different categories of co-curricular activities, including those that involve: Cultural Exploration (C); Leadership and Civic Engagement (L); Intellectual/Academic Activity (I); Professional Development (P); and Skill Development (S).
 - The categories for co-curricular experiences and the options for satisfying them are varied and broad to allow students seeking University Honors, Transfer Honors, or Highest Honors to select a set of enriching experiences that they find personally meaningful and worthwhile.
 - Additional information on the CLIPS categories and examples of activities that satisfy CLIPS requirements can be found [here](#).

Although University Honors requires 24 Honors credits, there is no limit on the number of Honors credits a student can earn. Each fall and winter term, The Honors College offers approximately 35 to 40 Honors sections across the different General Education categories and in certain major courses that are taken by large numbers of Honors students (e.g., some courses in psychology, chemistry, nursing, biology, and some Business Foundation courses). Students who take Honors courses can simultaneously use courses to meet Honors, General Education, and major requirements, as appropriate.

Students may also earn Honors credits by contracting courses (see [here](#) for more details about Honors contracts), although the College discourages students from contracting General Education courses that are offered as Honors sections.

[Contracting General Education courses requires pre-approval from The Honors College. The pre-approval form can be found on the [Forms page](#) of The Honors College website.]

The Community Service Requirement

The Honors College is strongly committed to the value of community service. All Honors pathways have a community service requirement. Students can check the [Community Service page](#) on The Honors College website to identify options for fulfilling the community service requirement.

Policies pertaining to Honors community service are as follows:

- Honors community service must be completed independent of coursework. EMU is fortunate to have a significant number of courses offered with service components and The Honors College encourages students to connect meaningfully with these opportunities. Yet only service hours completed above and beyond the requirements for an Honors class/contract or an Academic Service-Learning course may be counted as community service.
- Students may not receive pay or remuneration in any form (including a stipend) for an activity they wish to count as community service.
- Volunteer activities intended to support a religious organization or a political campaign may not count toward Honors community service requirements. The one exception to this rule is that service organized by a religious organization in support of a community external to the religious organization, such as a food bank, soup kitchen, or homeless shelter, or a vacation Bible school that recruits non-church members, can count as community service.
- The following activities may count as Honors community service without pre-approval from The Honors College:
 - Service arranged through an EMU campus office (e.g., The Honors College, the Department of Economics, the Undergraduate Symposium)
 - Service arranged through [Engage@EMU](#) or an organization listed on the Engage website (e.g., Bright Futures, Semis Coalition, Upward Bound, The Collaborative, etc.)
 - Service that is arranged through an EMU registered student organization, including Greek Life organizations, or a residence hall
 - Service at an organization registered with the United Way
- Students who wish to earn Honors community service credit for any organization not listed above must obtain pre-approval from The Honors College. Students may request pre-approval using the pre-approval form available on the [Forms page](#) of The Honors College website.
- Students may not use the same activity to count simultaneously toward community service and any of the co-curricular CLIPS requirements. For example, volunteering for the Red Cross for a semester can be used as community service OR a Leadership experience (the “L” of CLIPS), but the same experience in the same year *cannot* be counted toward both a Leadership experience AND community service. Students may participate in the same experience in two separate years (e.g.,

volunteer for the Red Cross over two separate semesters) and count one year of service as a Leadership experience and the other as community service.

Students must report community service to The Honors College using the community service form available on the [Forms page](#) of The Honors College website unless they completed the service for The Honors College. Students who provide service directly to The Honors College will have that service automatically credited, so they do not need to fill out the community service form!

Honors students are encouraged to submit their community service paperwork within 60 calendar days following the end of the community service activity. All community service must be completed and paperwork for that service must be submitted prior to the first day of the final month preceding the student's graduation for a student to graduate with University, Transfer, or Highest Honors.

The Star Lecture Series and Reflection Paper

The Star Lecture Series invites faculty and staff and other speakers representing different academic disciplines and experiences to address a common topic or theme – the theme for the year – in six lectures across a single academic year. The Star Lecture Series includes three lectures in the fall semester and three in the winter semester. To satisfy the Star Lecture requirement for University Honors, students must attend at least three of the six Star Lectures presented during a single academic year (not calendar year) and submit a reflection paper about the lectures to The Honors College.

The Star Lecture reflection paper is a critical, reflective essay designed to push students to make connections and observations across the three separate lectures and to reflect on how they inform their ongoing growth and development as students within The Honors College and at EMU. The paper should not simply be a report of the student's feelings about the lecture or lecturer or a description of the lectures. The student's task is to be a critically and thoughtfully engaged participant and active inquirer throughout the series. The reflection paper should explore how the three lectures together inform the general theme for the year.

The Star Lecture Reflection Essay should always include:

- A) Specific and accurate information from each of the three separate lectures the student attended:

Who were the speakers? Where were they from? What were their areas of expertise? What were the topics of the lectures and how did they connect to the theme for the year?

And

- B) Some critical and reflective analysis demonstrating thoughtful engagement:

What were the key take-aways? How did the lectures relate to the students' experiences or goals? How did they reinforce or reframe what you are learning in college? How did they offer new understandings about the theme for the year?

Students are encouraged to make notes in response to A) and B) following each lecture, so they can easily produce a paper of 2-2.5 typed, double-spaced pages that addresses all three lectures. The writing should also be polished and free of errors.

SCORING RUBRIC: (1-5 pts)

To receive Star Lecture Series credit for University Honors, students must receive a minimum of 3 pts. for the Star Lecture paper. *Essays that have significant grammatical, syntactical, or structural errors will be returned without scoring for revision and resubmission.*

- The essay includes specific, detailed, and accurate information about each of 3 separate Star Lecture events within a single academic year—1 pt.
- The essay draws connections between the lectures and the year's theme—1 pt.
- The essay draws connections between the lectures and the student's own thinking, experiences, program of study—1 pt.
- The essay is at least 400 words long—1 pt.
- Essay is interesting and compelling—1 pt.

Star Lecture Papers should be submitted as a PDF attachment to The Honors College email address: EMUHonors@emich.edu.

Honors students are *strongly* encouraged to submit their Star Lecture paper to The Honors College within 60 calendar days following the end of the academic year in which they attend the three Star Lectures and may do so as soon as they have attended three lectures. Writing the reflection paper as soon as the three lectures are completed ensures that the material is fresh in the student's mind, allowing them to make meaningful connections across the lectures.

The CLIPS Co-Curricular Honors Experience Requirements⁵

The required Honors co-curricular experiences are rooted in student learning, exploration, and excellence in five domains. These five domains provide a wide range of co-curricular choices and give students maximum flexibility in designing their own path to an Honors degree.

An Honors Experience is an event or activity that achieves one or more of the following goals:

- Deepening cultural understanding
- Developing leadership skills and/or enhancing community engagement
- Enriching intellectual life
- Enhancing professional development
- Assisting with the acquisition and enhancement of physical, technical, artistic, or musical skills

To qualify as a CLIPS co-curricular activity, participation in the activity *cannot* meet General Education requirements or requirements for a major or minor. For example, if a student is required to participate in a music ensemble or to complete an internship for their major (or minor), that activity cannot be counted as meeting one of the CLIPS requirements. The only exceptions to this rule involve participation in study abroad or EMU U.S. travel courses, both of which can be used to meet the Cultural Exploration requirement for all students.

Students seeking University Honors are required to complete three Honors Experiences, from at least two of the five different CLIPS domains.

⁵ The Honors Co-Curricular Requirements changed at the beginning of the fall 2022 semester. Students who enrolled in classes at EMU prior to fall 2022 have the option of completing the old co-curricular requirements and should check the 2021-2022 Student Handbook for more information on those previous requirements. Students who enrolled in classes at EMU for the first time in fall 2022 or later must complete the requirements laid out in this Student Handbook.

- **Domain 1: Cultural Exploration (the C in CLIPS)** promotes global citizenship, multicultural understanding, and awareness of one's cultural orientations. Examples of acceptable cultural exploration activities include:
 - Participating in a study-abroad experience (even if required for a major or minor)
 - Participating in a U.S. travel course or travel in the U.S. with an EMU student group (even if required for a major or minor)
 - Participating in the Honors Virtual International Experience
 - Attending the Stratford Festival with The Honors College
 - Completing a foreign language course beyond one used to meet the General Education Humanities [GEKH] requirement or requirements for the major
 - Participating in the EMU Model UN team
 - Planning and/or organizing a cultural event on the EMU campus (e.g., an Arab-American fair, the MLK Day organizing committee)
- **Domain 2: Leadership (the L in CLIPS)** involves leading others to accomplish a goal or demonstrates active involvement in civic and community life. Examples include:
 - Working or volunteering in a campus leadership role (SGA, NSOA, RA, SI, Holman Success Center, Admissions Office Tour Guide, ASA, E-Ambassador, etc.)
 - Serving on the Executive Board of a Registered Student Organization for at least 2 semesters
 - Serving as a Student Fellow in The Honors College
 - Serving as a student member of The Honors College Advisory Committee (HCAC) for a full academic year (with attendance at a minimum of 5 of the 6 meetings)
 - Interning in a government office or working on a political campaign
 - Creating a new registered student or non-profit organization
 - Sustained work as an advocate or activist
 - Planning and implementing a significant event on the EMU campus
- **Domain 3: Intellectual Achievement (the I in CLIPS)** promotes growth as an academic, scholar, researcher, and creative thinker or involves the production of new knowledge or creative work. Examples include:
 - Participating in research or creative activity leading to presentation or publication (beyond degree requirements and including summer research programs)
 - Pursuing a second major or minor (beyond a minor required for a particular degree)
 - Attending a *second* set of 3 Star Lectures⁶
 - Participating in the EMU Moot Court or Forensics teams, the EMU McNair Scholars Program, the Minority Case Competition (College of Business), or the Designer Contest (GameAbove College of Engineering & Technology)
- **Domain 4: Professional Development (the P in CLIPS)** involves activities that lead to professional growth, the development of professional skill sets, or immersion in a professional context. Examples include:
 - Completing an internship related to (but not one required for) the major

⁶ Students who wish to attend all 6 lectures in a single Star Lecture Series (i.e., all the same academic year) to earn credit for the Star Lecture AND an Intellectual Experience must solicit pre-approval from The Honors College using the Pre-Approval form on the Forms page of Honors College website.

- Completing a professional certification program⁷
 - Attending the Honors Professional Development Series (4 of 6-7 sessions in a single academic year)
 - Attending a multi-day professional conference in one's field
 - Attending the Public Policy Leadership Conference (PPLC) or the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute
 - Engaging in entrepreneurship (i.e., the building of a small business)
 - Competing for a national scholarship or fellowship (e.g., the Goldwater, Truman, Rhodes, Fulbright, or Marshall Scholarship or the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship)
- **Domain 5: Skill Development (the S in CLIPS)** involves acquisition of a skillset or lifestyle pattern independent of professional development or cultural exploration. Examples include:
 - Participating in marching band or a musical group or theater performance (when participation is NOT required for the major)
 - Participating in an EMU sports team (NCAA D1 or Club Team)
 - Participating in the EMU Cheer or Dance Team
 - Running a 10K, marathon, or half-marathon for the first time (may only be done once)
 - Taking a DANC or ARTS course that does not meet major, minor, or General Education (GEKA) requirements
 - Learning self-defense techniques
 - Taking a PEGN course to learn a new athletic skill (may only be done once)

Students may also propose that an experience or activity not listed above be allowed to meet one of the CLIPS requirements. To do so, they must complete the Honors Pre-approval form available on the [Forms page](#) of The Honors College website.

To receive credit for an Honors CLIPS Experience, students must submit the Honors Experience form (available on the [Forms page](#) of The Honors College website) along with a reflection paper. The Honors Experience form must be completed three times for University Honors (once for each of the three required CLIPS experiences), twice for Transfer Honors (once for both required CLIPS experiences), and five times for Highest Honors (once for each of the five required CLIPS Experiences). Students who are pursuing both University Honors AND Highest Honors only need to complete 5 CLIPS Experiences total, as the 3 CLIPS Experiences required for University Honors also count toward Highest Honors.

Students are *strongly* encouraged to submit their Honors Experience paperwork within 60 calendar days following the end of the Honors Experience. All Honors Experiences must be completed and paperwork for those experiences must be submitted by the first day in the month in which their graduation falls (December 1 for fall graduation, April 1 for winter graduation, and August 1 for summer graduation) for a student to graduate with Honors.

Honors CLIPS Experience Reflection Papers

A reflection paper describes an individual's reactions, feelings, and analysis of a co-curricular experience. The Honors Experience Reflection Paper should **always** include:

⁷ Students may also opt to complete certification programs for an Honors contract project, but cannot complete the same certification for both a Professional Development Experience *and* an Honors contract.

(A) A description of the specific experience, why the student chose to participate in that experience, and what the student learned from participating in the experience.

And

(B) Some critical and reflective analysis demonstrating thoughtful engagement:

In regards to (B), the reflection can address the following: What were the key take-aways from the experience? How did the experience relate to the student's professional or personal goals? How did the experience help the student grow? How did it reinforce or reframe what the student is learning in college?

SCORING RUBRIC: (1-4 pts).

To receive credit for their Honors CLIPS Experience, students must receive a minimum of 3 pts. for their reflection essay. Essays that have significant grammatical, syntactical, or structural errors will be returned without scoring for revision and resubmission.

- The essay includes a specific and detailed description of what the experience was and what the student did—1 pt.
- The essay draws connections between the experience and the student's own thinking, program of study, or personal and professional goals—1 pt.
- The essay contains at least 400 words—1 pt.
- The essay is interesting and compelling--1 pt

Details Regarding Requirements for *Transfer Honors*

The requirements for Transfer Honors are similar to requirements for University Honors, but require fewer course hours and CLIPS activities. Details regarding the requirements for Transfer Honors can be found in the section on University Honors (see [here](#) for more details).

- A. Coursework: 18 Honors credit hours required (all earned at EMU)**
- B. Community Service: 20 hours required**
- C. Participation in the Star Lecture Series (in a single academic year)**
- D. Undergraduate (UG) Research Workshop**
- E. Completion of 2 Co-Curricular "CLIPS" Activities from 2 Different CLIPS Honors Experience Categories (both completed at EMU)**

Details Regarding Requirements for *Departmental Honors*

A. Coursework: 12-15 Honors credit hours required

- A minimum of 12 credit hours must be completed in the major or minor field of study in which the student wishes to earn Departmental Honors. As indicated in Section D below, Departments may require more than the minimum number of Honors credits for the student to earn Departmental Honors. Departments may also specify that all of the 12 Honors hours must be taken at the upper-division level (i.e., 300- or 400-level courses) or, in the College of Business, that Business Foundation courses can only count toward the 12 Honors hours if the courses are offered by the Department (e.g., MKTG 360 for a Marketing major or MGMT 386 for a Management major).

Students wishing to earn Departmental Honors must check with the Departmental Honors Advisor for specific departmental requirements.

- The Honors coursework must be approved by the Departmental Honors Advisor (who will let the student know how many hours the Department requires for Departmental Honors).
- Once the Departmental Honors Advisor has approved the selection of the Honors coursework in the major or minor, the student must complete an [Intent to Pursue Departmental Honors Form](#) and obtain the signature of the Departmental Honors Advisor.
- A list of Departmental Honors Advisors for each Department or academic discipline is available on the [Departmental Honors Advising page](#) of the Honors website.
- The Intent to Pursue Departmental Honors Form must be submitted to The Honors College no later than the first day of the last month of the semester prior to graduation (**August 1** for fall graduates, **April 1** for summer graduates, **December 1** for winter graduates), although it is highly recommended that students submit the form as soon as they decide to complete Departmental Honors.
- There is no guarantee that Honors hours completed prior to submission of the Intent to Pursue Departmental Honors Form will be counted toward Departmental Honors.
- Some Departments maintain their own Departmental Honors websites, including [Nursing](#), [Biology](#), [Chemistry](#), and the [Paralegal](#) program.

B. Honors Undergraduate (UG) Research Workshop

- For students seeking Departmental Honors, which requires involvement in research or creative work, this workshop provides an introduction to how to become involved in undergraduate research.
- The workshop focuses on the benefits of participation in research, how to find a research advisor, the process of completing a Senior Project, and EMU resources for the support of undergraduate research.
- Students who intend to earn Departmental Honors should attend the Undergraduate Research Workshop as soon as they decide to pursue Departmental Honors.
- Students can sign up for an UG Research Workshop on the [Honors event calendar](#) on The Honors College website.

C. Senior Project

- Senior Project Proposal
Once a student has decided to pursue Departmental Honors and has attended an UG Research Workshop, they should begin talking to the Departmental Honors Advisor and faculty in the Department to find a topic for a Senior Project. The Senior Project Proposal must be submitted and approved by the first day of the last month of the semester prior to the one in which the student intends to graduate (August 1 for fall graduates, December 1 for winter graduates, April 1 for summer graduates). Students are encouraged to submit the Senior Project Proposal as soon as they have identified a topic for the project. For Departmental Honors, the proposal requires the signatures of the Senior Project Advisor (i.e., a faculty mentor/advisor) and the Departmental Honors Advisor. All proposals must include a clear and complete overview of the project or thesis.

Students who plan to complete a Senior Project can learn more about the Senior Project in the [Senior Project Handbook](#).

- Senior Project (or Senior Thesis)
The final step in earning Departmental Honors involves completing the Senior Project (sometimes called a Senior thesis) in the student's major or minor field of study. While working on the project, a student may complete independent study/research courses (typically numbered 497, 498, or 499) and earn up to a total of six (6) credit hours. Students who take a 497, 498, or 499 course should submit an Honors contract to earn Honors credit for the course. Students should check with the

Departmental Honors Advisor to see whether an independent study/research course is *required* in their Department. They should also check with an academic advisor to determine if they have room in their degree plan – in the major, minor, or elective hours – for independent study coursework. Additional information on the Senior Project can be found [here](#) in this Handbook as well as in the Senior Project Handbook.

D. Optional Departmental Requirements

- Some Departments may impose additional requirements or restrictions regarding Honors coursework for Departmental Honors. Students should check with the Departmental Honors Advisor to determine if there are any department-specific requirements.
- Additional Departmental requirements include, but are not limited to: (1) an Honors application process (e.g., in Nursing); (2) a specific Senior Project course (e.g., BIO 401 or CHEM 499); or (3) the need to present the work on the Senior Project at the Undergraduate Symposium or a similar venue (e.g., Psychology).

Departmental Honors is theoretically available in all academic departments and programs and provides the opportunity for close interaction between a student and instructor. As a rule, Honors students should expect to complete most of their Departmental Honors work during their final four semesters; however, a student can begin earlier, especially in majors that require sequential coursework (e.g., music performance, art, theater, world languages) where they may start work on a Senior Project as early as the first year. EMU McNair Scholars also often complete their Senior Project during their junior year, rather than their senior year.

Before beginning work on Departmental Honors, students should make an appointment with the appropriate Departmental Honors Advisor. Names and contact information for Departmental Honors advisors are available in the [Departmental Honors Advising section](#) of The Honors College website. The Departmental Honors advisor serves as the main source of information and advice for Departmental Honors.

Details Regarding Requirements for *Highest Honors*

Since students who wish to earn Highest Honors must earn either University Honors or Departmental Honors along with Highest Honors, requirements for Highest Honors are inclusive of academic work completed for University Honors and/or Departmental Honors. No special application is required for Highest Honors. Instead, since Highest Honors requires the completion of a Senior Project, students indicate their intent to pursue Highest Honors by checking the appropriate box on the Senior Project Proposal form.

Category I: Academic excellence (all must be fulfilled)

- Completion of requirements for either University Honors or Departmental Honors (or both)
- Successful completion of 30 total Honors credits
- Minimum EMU GPA of 3.7
- Completion of a Senior Project

Category II: Community service

- Completion of 45 hours of community service (inclusive of service hours earned for University Honors)
- Students should read the section on community service under University Honors above for additional details and policies regarding community service and the submission of community service hours

Category III: Co-Curricular CLIPS Requirements

- Students seeking Highest Honors are required to participate in 5 co-curricular experiences (inclusive of CLIPS activities completed for University Honors) from at least 3 different CLIPS categories
- As mentioned in the section on University Honors, the acronym “CLIPS” refers to the 5 different categories of co-curricular experiences: Cultural Exploration (C); Leadership and Civic Engagement (L); Intellectual/Academic Activity (I); Professional Development (P); and Skill Development (S).
- The categories and activities for co-curricular experiences are broad and varied to allow students seeking Highest Honors to select a set of enriching experiences that they find personally meaningful and worthwhile.
- Additional information on the CLIPS categories and examples of activities that satisfy CLIPS requirements can be found [here](#) in this Handbook (in the section on the University Honors pathway).

Students are *strongly* encouraged to submit their Honors Experience paperwork within 60 calendar days following the end of the Honors experience. ***All Honors Experiences must be completed and paperwork for those experiences must be submitted by the first day of the month in which the student expects to graduate for a student to graduate with Highest Honors.***

The Honors Senior Project

The Honors Senior Project (sometimes called an Honors thesis) is the culminating experience for students graduating with Departmental and/or Highest Honors. All students seeking Departmental or Highest Honors must complete a Senior Project. Students may use the same Senior Project to earn both Departmental and Highest Honors. With approval from the Departments involved, students may also use the same Senior Project to earn Departmental Honors in more than one Department or discipline. For a full description of the Honors Senior Project, students should read The Honors College [Senior Project Handbook](#).

The Senior Project may take various forms: a substantial research paper, a public performance, a documented lab experiment, a description of survey research, a computer program, a work of art, the creation of a new nonprofit organization or major event, a musical composition, or a mathematical proof with appropriate documentation. Whatever form it takes, the project should be a substantial and demanding exercise involving a minimum of 150 hours of work, and the result should demonstrate a high level of skill and understanding.

As students prepare to work on their Honors Senior Project, they should keep the following in mind.

- Successful projects must be carefully planned in advance. As soon as a student decides to pursue Departmental Honors, they should meet with the Departmental Honors Advisor in their field of study to discuss the project and consider a faculty mentor (called the Senior Project Advisor) for the project. Students interested in completing a Senior Project for Highest Honors without Departmental Honors should meet with the Dean or Associate Dean of The Honors College for guidance.
- The Senior Project Advisor should be a full-time faculty member who is knowledgeable in the subject and available to provide direction and criticism.⁸ The mentor will also evaluate the final

⁸ With special permission from The Honors College, a Senior Project Advisor may come from an institution other than EMU. In such cases, however, the Senior Project Advisor must hold a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.F.A., M.D.) in their academic discipline.

product and assist with the presentation, if one is required. Once a faculty member has agreed to direct a project, a meeting should be scheduled to refine the scope of the project, agree on a project description, and negotiate such matters as format, methodology, and deadlines.

- Students cannot wait until the semester of graduation to begin work on the Senior Project. It will be exceptionally difficult, if not impossible, to complete a high-quality project in a single semester.
- The Honors Senior Project Proposal should be completed and submitted to The Honors College once the nature of the project has been established. This application includes the anticipated graduation date, whether the student is seeking Departmental or Highest Honors (or both), a tentative title, and a description of the project (on attached pages). If the student is seeking Departmental Honors, the Senior Project Proposal must be signed by the Senior Project Advisor, the Departmental Honors Advisor, and the Dean of The Honors College. If the student is seeking Highest Honors without Departmental Honors, the Project Proposal must be signed by the Senior Project Advisor, the Associate Dean of The Honors College, and the Dean of The Honors College. In both cases, the Proposal should be submitted to EMUHonors@emich.edu. The Dean will sign the form *after* it is submitted. The signatures signify approval.
- Students must submit the completed Senior Project to The Honors College by the 20th day of the month of their graduation (December 20th for fall, April 20th for winter, and August 20th for summer).
- At the beginning of the term in which they plan to graduate, the Associate Dean of The Honors College will enroll students completing a Senior Project into a Canvas shell. The purpose of the Canvas shell is to break down what can seem like a daunting task – completing a Senior Project – into smaller, more manageable pieces. The Canvas shell also serves as a location where students can upload required Honors forms and allows The Honors College to provide students with feedback on the formatting of their work. Students will upload drafts of the Senior Project, including the final draft, in the Canvas shell. They will also receive instructions for submitting and routing the Senior Project Approval form and the Library Release form (found on the [Forms page](#) of the Honors website).
- If the student intends to earn Departmental Honors (with or without Highest Honors), the project approval form routes to the Senior Project Advisor, the Departmental Honors Advisor, the Department Head or School Director, and the Dean of The Honors College. If the student intends to earn Highest Honors without Departmental Honors, the approval form routes to the Senior Project Advisor, the Associate Dean of The Honors College (in place of both Departmental Honors Advisor and Department Head), and the Dean of The Honors College.
- As with any long-term project, students may run into unexpected delays along the way. For that reason, as noted above, as much of the work as possible should be completed prior to the final semester. Since the project must be approved by a number of different individuals, students should be careful not to jeopardize graduation with Departmental or Highest Honors by waiting until the last minute to submit their work. Additional deadlines are spelled out in the Senior Project Handbook and the email message students receive when their Senior Project Proposal is approved by The Honors College. Students who will be student teaching during their final semester at EMU are strongly encouraged to complete the Senior Project prior to the student-teaching semester.
- Research that involves humans as participants requires Human Subjects Approval from EMU's Institutional Review Board (IRB). Details about how to apply for this approval are addressed in the

Senior Project Handbook. Obtaining permission from the IRB is not automatic and may take time and negotiation, so students should plan ahead and discuss this issue with their Senior Project Advisor early in the process.

- ***All projects must include a written component – even creative projects.*** Although many projects will be extended research papers, some will involve public performances, works of art, creation of a manual or website, and other creative endeavors. Regardless of the format of the creative production, the work must be accompanied by a written product that carefully documents the creative activity. For creative projects, the work should provide sufficient introductory information to help contextualize the project for the reader. In addition, a substantial section should be included that helps the reader understand the value of the work and its significance to the student's field. In other words, if the work on the project results in a creative work – a composition, a novella, a work of art, a music festival, a new organization, an autonomous vehicle – the project will also include a written component. If a student or faculty mentor is unsure whether the format or content of the project satisfies Honors College requirements, they should contact the Associate Dean or Dean of The Honors College for guidance.
- Students are eligible to apply for Undergraduate Research funding to support their work from the time they become involved in research. Applications for this competitive funding are available on the [Scholarships page](#) of The Honors College website. The application form is typically available by the end of the first month of classes and is due by November 1st for winter term funding and April 1st for summer and fall term funding. In April, students may submit two proposals for the same project (one for summer funding and one for fall funding). All proposals are reviewed and judged by a faculty committee, and selection is competitive. Students who have already submitted a Senior Project Proposal are eligible for the largest award of \$2,000.
- The project must meet certain formal guidelines. Students should read the Senior Project Handbook carefully to ensure they follow all formatting guidelines and prepare their signature page appropriately.
- As always, sources must be properly cited according to the conventions outlined in the style manual appropriate for the student's academic discipline. This includes any information or images taken from the internet. If the student plans to make the project available on Digital Commons, they must obtain signed media release forms from anyone appearing in original photographs, videos, or audio recordings. Students should contact The Honors College if they anticipate needing these forms.
- If students choose to enroll in an independent study or directed readings course to complete the project, they should submit an Honors contract to earn Honors credit for these hours. Students should check with the Departmental Honors Advisor to see if the Department requires a specific course for thesis credit (e.g., CHEM 499, PSY 499).

Earning Honors Credit

Honors credit can be earned by taking a designated Honors course, by completing an Honors Contract in a non-Honors course, by taking any course with an HNRS prefix (including McNair Research Seminars), or by taking a graduate course for undergraduate credit. Students must earn a course grade of B- or higher to receive Honors credit for any type of course – although they always earn university academic credit for any Honors course in which they earn a passing grade. Students who wish to earn Honors credit for a course cannot select the “pass/fail” option.

Designated Honors Courses

Typically, enrollment in designated Honors courses is available only to Honors College students (although the Dean or Associate Dean of The Honors College may make exceptions for Honors-eligible students when space is available). When students join The Honors College, an Honors “major” is applied to their record to provide them automatic admission to courses designated “Honors Only Section.” Enrollment in Honors courses is restricted to 25 or fewer students. Most Honors students take one or more Honors courses per semester, especially during their freshman year, but the number of Honors courses they take depends on their schedule, interests, abilities, ambitions, and pathways. There is no maximum number of Honors courses a student may take.

Honors students are encouraged to fulfill as many of their requirements through Honors sections as possible. Prior to the beginning of registration for the next semester, The Honors College posts a list of Honors courses (and course descriptions) on The Honors College website. The list is also distributed to all Honors College students through the weekly Honors College newsletter. Although there is some variation in the General Education Honors courses offered each term, students can check Appendix A on pp. 38-40 of this Handbook for a list of the specific courses offered as Honors sections in either a Winter or Fall term.

Students should note that they only receive Honors credit for a designated Honors section in which they earn a grade of “B-” or higher. Students who earn a grade of “D-,” “D,” “D+,” “C-,” “C,” or “C+” in the designated Honors section, will still receive credit for the course, but will not receive Honors credit and will not see an “H” next to the letter grade. The “H” is the signal on the transcript that the student earned Honors credit in a designated Honors section.

Honors Contract Courses

Honors contracts provide students an opportunity to earn Honors credit in non-Honors courses. Honors contracts can be used for the following purposes:

- **To earn Honors credit for a regular non-Honors undergraduate course.** Students can earn Honors credit in a regular, non-Honors, undergraduate class through an Honors contract. To earn the Honors designation, the student typically performs some additional class work designed to enrich their experience in the course. The Honors contract project may be a presentation, lab experiment, creative project, observation, special set of readings, a series of discussions with the instructor, or a research paper – anything that will enable a student to examine an aspect of the course in greater depth or with a greater level of reflection. While the Honors contract is arranged with the course instructor, the Departmental Honors Advisor from the Department or School that offers the course (not from the student’s major department) and The Honors College must also approve the contract.

When students wish to contract a class, they should keep the following policies in mind:

- To complete an Honors contract, students should first speak with the instructor of the course they wish to contract. They should request permission to complete a contract in the course and should discuss the contract project with the instructor.
- Once the faculty member agrees to the contract, the student should submit the Honors contract form, available on the [Forms page](#) of The Honors College website **by the deadline** for the semester (see [here](#) in this Handbook for contract submission deadlines).

- The student should also notify the appropriate Departmental Honors Advisor prior to submitting the Contract form. Clear communications about the details of the Contract prior to submission of the form ensure that the approval process is completed properly and efficiently.
- Students who wish to complete an Honors contract in a General Education course must first obtain pre-approval from The Honors College, using the pre-approval form on the [Forms page](#) of The Honors College website. The request for pre-approval should state the student's reason(s) for contracting a General Education course instead of taking an Honors-designated class from within the same General Education category.
- Students should take the initiative to develop a realistic, academically-sound contract proposal. Be creative. The best Honors contract projects are those that enhance the classroom experience, not ones that simply add more work. Students should approach the instructor with concrete objectives in mind, and the project description should include realistic, specific deadlines. Examples of some creative approaches to Honors contracts can be found in Appendix B at the end of this Handbook. Students are also encouraged to view the video on Honors contracts on the [Honors Courses and Contracts page](#) of The Honors College website.
- The Honors contract project should take approximately 12 to 15 hours to complete.
- The description of the project should be specific. It should include details regarding exactly what the student will do, including the required format (if relevant), the number of pages (if a paper is involved), the amount of reading, the number of meetings with the faculty member, the specific topic or process for choosing a topic, and the due date(s) for the contract work. The instructor, the Departmental Honors Advisor, and The Honors College retain the right to reject a Contract if it fails to adhere to these standards.
- ***The due date for completion of the contract project can be no later than the last day of classes for the semester.***
- Plan ahead. The supervising instructor and the Departmental Honors Advisor from the Department in which the course is offered must approve the contract by the deadline. Students who fail to obtain the necessary signatures or turn in the contract by the deadline jeopardize their ability to earn Honors credit.
- Work on the Honors contract can neither raise nor lower the student's grade in the course, as the grade for the contract work is not entered into the grade calculation for the course. To receive Honors credit, students must complete the contract work at the level of a "B-" or better and must earn a grade of "B-" or higher in the course.
- Faculty members are under no obligation to agree to complete an Honors Contract with a student. Because supervision of a contract project requires an expenditure of additional time and effort, the student should be sure to let faculty members who agree to complete contracts know how much they appreciate their help.
- Nonstandard Curricular Variations. Subject to Departmental and Honors College restrictions, students may also use Honors contracts to earn Honors credit for some nonstandard curricular variations, such as:

- Study Abroad: A maximum of 6 Honors credits may be earned through study abroad with appropriate contracts and project completion. Students who have questions about earning Honors credit for study-abroad courses should contact the Dean of The Honors College.
- Internships, fieldwork, clinical work, and co-operative education: With the approval of the Departmental Honors Advisor, the supervising instructor, and The Honors College, internships, fieldwork, clinical work, and co-operative education may be contracted for Honors credit. See the appropriate Departmental Honors Advisor or the Dean of The Honors College for guidance.

Setting up an Honors Contract: To contract a course and earn Honors credit, the student must complete the Honors contract form (found on The [Honors College Forms page](#)) and submit it by the deadline for the term (see deadlines below). The form requires a brief description of the Honors contract project. After the student submits the form, it routes to the course instructor, the Departmental Honors Advisor, and The Honors College for approval. *The student should discuss the Honors contract project with the faculty member and the Departmental Honors Advisor before completing the paperwork.*

Honors Contract Deadlines: The deadlines for contract paperwork to be submitted⁹ using the form on the website are as follows:

<u>Semester of Contract</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Fall Semester	October 15
Winter Semester	February 15
Summer A Semester (May/June)	May 20
Summer B Semester (July/August)	July 10

Receiving Honors Credit for an Honors Contract: Following the last day of classes at the end of the semester, an Honors College administrator will route the Honors Contract form back to the instructor to verify whether the student completed the work at a satisfactory level. The instructor will report: (1) whether the student earned a grade of “B-” or better in the course; and (2) whether the student completed the terms of the Honors Contract with a grade of B- or better. As with designated Honors sections, students only earn Honors credit for an Honors Contract if they earn a grade of “B-” or higher in the course – although they will still earn credit for the course, if they earn a grade lower than a “B-.”

As mentioned above, all Honors Contract work is expected to be completed by the last day of class. Individual professors *may* grant students an extension if the student can complete the Honors Contract work by the last day of final exams, but all extensions for Honors Contract work are at the discretion of the professor. If the professor does not believe they have time to report completion of the Contract work to The Honors College by the time grades are due, they should refuse to grant the extension. ***Under no circumstances can a student earn Honors credit for an Honors Contract after the grade for the course has been reported to the Registrar!***

The only way a student can earn Honors credit for an Honors Contract completed after the end of the term is if the instructor gives the student a grade of Incomplete in the course at the time that grades are due. In that case, the student can still receive Honors credit for the contracted course as long as: (1) the Honors Contract work has been completed when the instructor submits a Change of Grade form to the Registrar’s Office; and (2) either the student or instructor immediately notifies The Honors College that the coursework and Honors Contract have been completed once the Change of Grade form is submitted. If the student provides the

⁹ Signatures of the course instructor, departmental Honors advisor, and Honors administration may come after the posted submission deadline.

verification, an Honors administrator will reach out to the instructor to confirm the student's claim that the Honors credit should be awarded.

Independent Study and Directed Reading Courses

Independent Study and Directed Reading Courses allow students to explore topics not covered in a regularly scheduled course or involve students in research and can be taken for one, two, or three credit hours (e.g., BIO 497 = 1 credit, BIO 498 = 2 credits, BIO 499 = 3 credits). Students primarily earn Honors credit for Independent Study courses when (1) they are working on research or creative activity in the course; and (2) the work in the Independent Study course is expected to lead to a Senior Project. Independent-study courses are typically arranged through an academic Department, but students who cannot set one up through an academic Department may ask The Honors College if they can sign up for an Honors (HNRS) independent study course.

Instructor and Departmental permission are necessary prior to registration for independent-study courses. Departmental requirements for independent studies vary across Departments, so students should inquire about procedures prior to registration. Except in the case of an HNRS independent study, once registered, a student must arrange an Honors contract with the professor to receive Honors credit for the independent study. As always, the contract is subject to the approval of the Departmental Honors Advisor and The Honors College.

Students may also ask to sign up for 1-credit, lower-level independent study courses with an HNRS prefix (HNRS 297 or 397) when they need an extra hour to meet scholarship requirements. The Honors College will help them find a project they can complete to earn the Honors credit. Because these courses have the HNRS prefix, students do not need to submit a Contract.

Taking Graduate Courses for Honors Credit

Students may also earn Honors credit for taking a graduate course. The requirements for earning Honors credit for graduate coursework depends on whether the student intends to apply the graduate coursework toward undergraduate requirements or toward the graduate requirements of a combined 3+2 or 4+1 program (e.g., in occupational therapy, accounting, orthotics and prosthetics, cybersecurity).

Earning Honors Credit in a Graduate Course Taken for Undergraduate Credit: Junior (56 completed credit hours) and senior (85 completed credit hours) Honors students have the option of enrolling in a graduate course (500-level only) to earn both undergraduate and Honors credit. Doing so requires permission from the course instructor, The Honors College, and the Registrar's Office. Once the student enrolls in the graduate course, they must complete an Honors contract form and submit it to The Honors College office to receive Honors credit for the graduate class. No special contract project is required since students enrolled in a graduate course have committed to doing additional work beyond the work required in undergraduate courses. In the section for the contract project, the student can write, "This course is a graduate-level course, so I am doing extra work beyond what is required for undergraduate students."

Earning Honors Credit in a Graduate Course Taken for a Combined Bachelors/Masters Program: Students in a combined Bachelors/Masters program¹⁰ may also earn Honors credit for a graduate course, but since their program requires them to complete the course, the work they complete to earn Honors credit must go above and beyond the work that other graduate students in the course are required to complete. To earn Honors credit for a graduate course, a student in a combined program must complete and submit an Honors contract form, specifying the extra work that will be completed for the contract.

¹⁰ See the University Catalog for a list of Combined Bachelors/Masters programs offered at EMU.

In all cases, students who wish to earn Honors credit for a graduate course must earn a grade of B- or higher in the course. The form for registering for a graduate course as an undergraduate can be found on the [Registrar's Office Forms page](#). Students should be aware that *the tuition rate for a graduate class is higher than the tuition rate for an undergraduate course. In addition, there is no waiver of out-of-state tuition for graduate courses, as there is for undergraduate courses.*

Tracking the Completion of Honors Credit

Once a term is over, students can track the number of Honors hours they have completed in two ways. First, they can check their Supplemental Advising record in their MyEmich account, as the Supplemental Advising section lists Honors contract hours (abbreviated “Honors Cntrts”) and Honors section hours (abbreviated “Honors Sects”). Here is an example of what that looks like in the Supplemental Advising record:

Event Description	Decision	Date
Honors College - Honors Cntrts	3	12/23/2023
Honors College - Honors Sects	9	05/12/2024

In this case, the student has completed 12 total Honors hours, 3 by Contract and 9 through regular Honors course sections.

Honors hours in Supplemental Advising are updated approximately three weeks after the winter term ends and five to six weeks after the fall term ends (with the winter holiday vacation responsible for the delay). The Decision column indicates the number of Honors hours completed in that category (Contracts or Sections) and the date indicates the last time information was added to that event line. If there is no “Honors Cntrts” line or no “Honors Sects” line, it means that the student has not completed any Honors hours in that category. If the student thinks there is an error in the record, they should notify The Honors College at EMUHonors@emich.edu.

The other way for a student to track the number of Honors hours they have completed involves checking their unofficial transcript in their MyEmich account. Honors credit is indicated on the transcript in one of two ways, depending on the source of the Honors credit. In both cases, students will not see the Honors designation on their transcript until after the end of the semester in which they earned the Honors credit.

The Honors designation for Honors sections of a course appears on the transcript as soon as grades are posted at the end of the term. Students will see the letter “H” (for “Honors”) next to the letter grade they earned for the course. [If the student earns a grade below a “B-” in the course, they will not see the “H” because they will not have earned Honors credit.]

The Honors designation for Honors contract courses appears on the transcript approximately 30-45 days following the end of the term in which the course was completed (with a longer delay for the fall term because of the winter holiday). To verify their Honors credit for an Honors contract course, students should look at the line for “Term Comments” at the top of the list of courses for the semester in which they completed the contract. The Honors designation for an Honors contract is listed there with an “H,” then the prefix and number of the course, and the words “Honors Credit Earned” (e.g., “H_LITR_202_Honors Credit Earned”). Again, students must earn a grade of B- or higher in an Honors contract course to earn the Honors credit. If the student does not see the Honors credit earned within 45 days following the end of the term, they should contact The Honors College at EMUHonors@emich.edu.

Dates and Deadlines

Students should check the [Honors event calendar](#) on The Honors College website on a regular basis to learn about important dates and deadlines as well as dates for Honors College events. Students will also receive occasional emails about important dates and deadlines as well as updates about academic opportunities and service and social events through the weekly newsletter. *Please read the emails and the newsletter you receive from The Honors College!*

Honors Graduation and the Honors Commencement Ceremony

Applying to Graduate from The Honors College

The final step in earning an Honors degree from EMU is for a student to apply to graduate with one or more of the Honors pathway designations (University, Transfer, Departmental, and/or Highest Honors). *Students must complete all the requirements for a minimum of one Honors pathway to qualify to graduate from The Honors College and to participate in The Honors College graduation ceremony.*¹¹ Students submit their application for Honors graduation through the [Honors graduation page](#) of The Honors College website. Students intending to graduate with an Honors pathway through The Honors College must also submit a formal [application for graduation](#) from EMU online through Records and Registration, which they can do via their MyEmich Student Academic Services tab by clicking on “Apply to Graduate,” which is found under “Your Academic Records”). Students cannot qualify to graduate with Honors from EMU unless they have completed all requirements for their declared degree at EMU.

It is strongly recommended that students apply for Honors College graduation at the start of the semester in which they anticipate completing all degree requirements. The earlier students submit their application for Honors graduation, the more time they will have to complete any items they may be missing!

Once a student completes the Honors graduation application, the Honors advising team conducts an audit and notifies the student of any items missing for graduation in their intended Honors pathway(s). If the audit indicates that the student could graduate with Honors in that term (pending submission of some paperwork), the student will receive a link to a graduation survey. The survey asks students to submit information used at the Honors Graduation ceremony and in post-graduation communications – a brief bio, a favorite quote, future plans, a photo for the graduation website, their mailing address for the Honors certificate, what names they want read at the ceremony and how those names are pronounced, how many guests they would like to bring to the Honors Graduation ceremony, post-graduation contact information, etc.

Recognition for Honors Graduation

Students must be in good standing with The Honors College to graduate with University, Transfer, Departmental, and/or Highest Honors. Graduation with an Honors College distinction is recognized in a number of ways.¹²

¹¹ Meeting GPA requirements for institutional Honors categories – *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude* – does not qualify a student to participate in The Honors College graduation ceremony.

¹² Honors graduates are also eligible to receive a gold Honors tassel if they expect to graduate with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. The University – NOT The Honors College – provides students with this Honors tassel. Students can pick up their tassel at Service EMU in the Student Center beginning roughly 10 days before their graduation ceremony.

- On the transcript: Honors designations are listed on students' transcripts (e.g., "With University Honors," "With Transfer Honors," "With Honors in [Major/Program]" and/or "With Highest Honors"). All Honors coursework is also designated on the transcript (as described on pp. 32).
- At an Honors Commencement ceremony: All students expected to graduate with Honors in a fall or winter term are invited to attend The Honors College Commencement ceremony for that term. Students who expect to graduate with Honors in a summer term are invited to choose between attending the winter or fall Honors Commencement ceremony that precedes or follows the summer term in which they intend to graduate. In fall, the Honors ceremony is held in the Auditorium at The Honors College. In winter, the ceremony is typically held in Pease Auditorium. In both cases, the Honors ceremony takes place one or two days prior to the University's graduation ceremonies.
- With an Honors medallion: Honors graduates receive a distinctive Honors medallion at the Honors ceremony. The medallion is intended to be worn at the University graduation ceremony, which takes place in the Convocation Center.
- With an Honors certificate suitable for framing: Once Records and Registration has verified that the student has completed all degree and Honors requirements, the Honors graduate receives an Honors certificate. It typically takes 30-45 days following the graduation ceremony for students to receive their certificate (and their official university diploma). Students receive an Honors certificate holder at the Honors ceremony.

In addition to the medallion and certificate cover mentioned above, Honors graduates receive additional items at The Honors College Commencement ceremony, including an Honors alumni T-shirt, an Honors alumni pin, an Honors College bumper sticker, and the letter that they wrote to themselves during their Honors Orientation or Kickstart session (when they entered The Honors College). Students who opt not to attend the Honors ceremony may visit The Honors College Office to pick up all gift items (except the Honors graduation certificate). In the event of a cancellation of a Commencement ceremony (as during the pandemic), all graduation items are mailed to graduates.

Building an Honors Community

The Honors College takes a variety of steps to help students build a sense of community with other Honors students as well as Honors faculty and staff. Those steps include the following:

Downing Hall: Honors Living and Learning Community

The Honors College hosts its own Living and Learning Community in Downing Hall (which was refurbished prior to the fall 2023 semester). Honors students are not required to live on campus or to live in Downing Hall if they choose to live on campus, but Downing Hall offers students a living environment that furthers their connections to their Honors peers. The goal of the Honors dorm is to connect students' experiences inside and outside the classroom. Living in the Honors residence hall helps Honors students find friends who share their interests, receive support for their intellectual pursuits, and feel more connected to The Honors College and the campus community.

All members of The Honors College are eligible to live in Downing Hall. A variety of Honors College activities are regularly scheduled in Downing Hall. For more information on Downing Hall, students should check the [Downing Hall page](#) on the Housing and Residence Life website.

Honors Social, Intellectual, & Service Events

Throughout the academic year, The Honors College hosts an array of social, service, and intellectual activities designed to foster a sense of community among Honors students and engage them fully in the life of the university. During the academic year, the College offers a monthly Star Lecture Series that invites faculty, staff, or alumni to provide stimulating lectures related to the theme for the year. Another monthly event is Pancakes with the Dean, which provides a chance to gather, meet new friends, and eat fresh (sometimes holiday-themed) pancakes. Major fall events include a Welcome Back Popsicle Party during the first week of classes and the Honors Fall Festival in October. The major spring event is the Honors Spring Picnic in April. Students can find out more about Honors events by reading the weekly *Tuesday Times* newsletter (delivered to their EMU email) or checking the [Honors event calendar](#).

The Honors College also offers a variety of student organizations that students can join, including the following:

- **The Black Honors Student Organization (BHSO)** was founded to fulfill the needs of current and prospective Black scholars and other students of color and to promote unity among all students who call The Honors College home. The mission of BHSO is to foster and promote a welcoming and inclusive environment within The Honors College at EMU. All are welcome to join BHSO.
- **The Honors Book Club** meets every other week to discuss a book that all members of the group read. Book Club members vote at the start of the semester on which book they wish to read that semester. Recent Book Club selections have included *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo, *A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Haynes, *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt, and *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin. Club members are responsible for obtaining their own copy of the book.
- **The Crochet/Knitting Club** combines community service with a social event. The club, which meets biweekly, provides a relaxing environment where members learn or employ skills in working with yarn while creating hats and blankets for donation to local hospitals. Members use donated materials to produce items for the hospital or bring their own materials and keep what they create. No experience is necessary, as experienced club members teach interested participants what they need to know! Members who donate items earn Honors community service credit.
- **Lori's Hands** was formed through a partnership between the School of Nursing, the School of Social Work, EMU Vision, and The Honors College. Lori's Hands builds mutually beneficial partnerships between community members with chronic illness and college students to foster connection, empathy, and resilience. Student volunteers provide practical assistance to support community members' independence at home, and community members share their health and life experiences to support student learning. Pairs of Lori's Hands student volunteers visit an assigned client each week to help with housework, meal preparation, grocery shopping, etc. Clients help students understand the experience of living with a chronic illness, navigating the healthcare system, and aging in place. Lori's Hands is a great way to gain experience relevant to careers in healthcare!

Students who are interested in joining one of these Honors organizations should send an email expressing their interest to EMUHonors@emich.edu.

Communicating with Honors Students

To keep Honors students aware of events happening within The Honors College, including important dates and deadlines, opportunities for service and fellowship, staff updates, scholarship opportunities, and more, The Honors College communicates through:

- *Tuesday Times* Newsletter: This newsletter is emailed to Honors students every Tuesday during the fall and winter semesters and monthly during the summer. The *Tuesday Times* provides information on Honors College events, contains important announcements, provides information about job and scholarship opportunities, and highlights other exciting happenings. All Honors students should begin receiving the newsletter within two weeks after they attend a Kickstart session. Students who wish to share information about an activity that their student organization is planning in the newsletter should contact EMUHonors@emich.edu.
- Social Media: The Honors College is active on social media, including Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Social media posts highlight programs and events, celebrate holidays and other special days, and spotlight students who obtain internships, receive scholarships, study abroad, and more. Following our social media channels provides insight into the exciting ways Honors students engage across campus and in the community. On Facebook, you can find us at "[The Honors College at Eastern Michigan University](#)," on Instagram, we are "[@EMUHonors](#)," and on TikTok, we are "[@EMUHonors](#)." Follow us to stay in the loop.

The McNair Scholars Program

The EMU McNair Scholars Program enjoys its current home within The Honors College. Honors students who are interested in attending graduate school and qualify for admission to the McNair Scholars program should consider applying to the program.

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is a federal program, funded by a US Department of Education TRIO grant to Eastern Michigan University. The goal of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society. The core purpose of the Program is to support first-generation and low-income undergraduates at EMU as they seek to pursue research-based graduate studies – specifically a Ph.D. degree. The program also provides services to students who come from racial and/or ethnic backgrounds that are traditionally underrepresented in graduate school (i.e., African American, Latino, Native American, and Filipino/Pacific Islander).

The program provides the knowledge, skills and capacities necessary to navigate the rigors of Ph.D. studies by immersing McNair Scholars in research and the publication process and by providing a variety of scholarly activities. Activities include academic skill building, a paid summer research internship program, opportunities to travel to present research at conferences and symposia, and assistance with the graduate school application process. In addition to the opportunity to engage in research with a faculty member, benefits include a stipend of up to \$3,900 (while students are writing), attendance at research conferences across the country (including Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and other popular destinations), and invitations to cultural events.

The ideal McNair Scholar is goal-oriented, disciplined, creative and inquisitive. McNair Scholars enjoy learning and are willing to listen and grow through their interaction with their mentors, advisors and peers. McNair Scholars take pride in completing assignments to the best of their ability, meeting deadlines, and

balancing work and academic commitments. They have a vision of themselves as successful professionals and are willing to work hard to achieve their dreams.

Students are eligible to become McNair Scholars if they meet all of the following requirements:

- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Currently enrolled at EMU as an undergraduate student
- At least 30 credits completed by the time of application and 12 months prior to graduation
- Minimum of 2.85 GPA
- Low income and first-generation college student **OR** from a background underrepresented in higher education¹³
- A desire to earn a graduate degree and, ideally, a Ph.D. (Research Doctorate).

Students who are interested in the McNair Scholars Program or want verification of their eligibility should check out the [McNair Scholars webpage](#) on the EMU website.

The Dean of The Honors College offers a letter of recommendation for all Honors applicants to McNair. Students who need a letter of recommendation for the McNair Scholars Program should contact EMUHonors@emich.edu.

¹³ First-generation college students are ones who grew up in a household where no parent held a 4-year/Bachelor's degree. Students from backgrounds underrepresented in higher education include students who are African-American, Hispanic, or Native American/Alaska native. Low-income status is determined by the Office of Post-Secondary Education. Students who are not sure if they qualify as low-income should reach out to the McNair Program Director.

Appendix A: Honors Sections Typically Offered (By Term)

FALL HONORS COURSES	
COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER	COURSE TITLE
ACC 241	Principles of Managerial Accounting
AFC 244 (even years)	Dimensions of Racism [GEGA or GEKS]
ANTH 135	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology [GEGA or GEKS]
ARTH 100	Art Appreciation [GEKA]
ASTR 105	Exploration of the Universe [GEKN]
BIO 110/111	Introductory Biology: Cells & Molecules Lecture and Laboratory [GEKN]
CHEM 121/122	General Chemistry I Lecture and Laboratory [GEKN]
CHEM 371	Organic Chemistry I
CHL 137 or 138 or 207	Harry Potter: Literary Allusion, Children's Literature and Popular Culture [GEKH] OR Comics [GEKH] OR Introduction to Children's Literature [GEKH]
COB 200L4	Introduction to Business [GELB]
COMM 124	Foundations of Speech Communication [GEEC]
CRTW 201	Introduction to Creative Writing [GEKA]
CTAR 158	Fundamentals of Acting [GEKA]
CTAR 222	Drama and Play in Human Experience [GEKA]
ECON 201	Principles of Macroeconomics [GEQR or GEKS]
LING 201	Introduction to Linguistics [GEKS]
MGMT 202	Business Communication
MKTG 360	Principles of Marketing
MUSC 107 or 108	Music Appreciation [GEKA] OR World Music [GEGA or GEKA]
NURS 110	Introduction to Professional Nursing
PHIL 100	Introduction to Philosophy [GEKH]
PHIL 223	Medical Ethics [GEKH]
PHIL 226	Feminist Theory [GEGA or GEKH]
PLSC 113	American Government Honors [GEKS]
PSY 101	General Psychology Lecture [GEKN]
PSY 200	Careers in Psychology
PSY 321	Child Psychology

SOCL 105	Introductory Sociology [GEKS]
SPGN 251	Introduction to Inclusion and Disabilities Studies in a Diverse Society [GEUS]
STAT 170	Elementary Statistics [GEQR]
WGST 200 or WGST 202	Introduction to Women's Studies [GEUS] OR Gender and Sexuality [GEUS]
WGST 226	Feminist Theory [GEGA or GEKH]
WRTG 121	Composition II: Researching the Public Experience [GEEC]

WINTER HONORS COURSES	
COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER	COURSE TITLE
ACC 240	Principles of Financial Accounting
ARTH 100	Art Appreciation [GEKA]
ANTH 135	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology [GEGA or GEKS]
BIO 301	Genetics
BIO 401	Completing an Honors Thesis
CHEM 125/126	Honors General Chemistry II Lecture and Laboratory [GEKN]
CHEM 372	Organic Chemistry II
CHEM 373	Organic Chemistry Laboratory
COMM 124	Foundations of Speech Communication [GEEC]
COMM 225, COMM 226, or COMM 227	Listening Behavior [GEKS] OR Nonverbal Communication [GEKS] OR Interpersonal Communication [GEKS]
COMM 260 (odd years)	Gender Communication [GEUS]
CTAR 158	Fundamentals of Acting [GEKA]
DTC 358	Food and Culture [GEGA]
ECON 202	Principles of Microeconomics [GEQR or GEKS]
ESSC 120	Dinosaurs, Mammoths, & Trilobites [GEKN]
GEOG 110	World Regions [GEGA]
LEAD 201L1	Introduction to Leadership [GEKS and GELB]
MGMT 386	Organizational Behavior and Theory
MUSC 107 or MUSC 108	Music Appreciation [GEKA] OR World Music [GEKA or GEGA]

PHIL 221	Business Ethics [GEKH]
PLSC 213	Introduction to Political Thought [GEKH]
PLSC 215	Civil Rights and Liberties in a Diverse US [GEUS]
PSY 101	General Psychology Lecture [GEKN]
PSY 200	Careers in Psychology
PSY 324	Lifespan Developmental Psychology
PSY 360	Introduction to Clinical Psychology
SOCL 105	Introductory Sociology [GEKS]
WGST 200 OR WGST 202	Introduction to Women's Studies [GEUS] OR Gender and Sexuality [GEUS]
WGST 260 (odd years)	Gender Communication [GEUS]
WRTG 121	Composition II: Researching the Public Experience [GEEC]

Appendix B: Thinking Creatively about Honors Contracts

The Honors contract project should produce a benefit to the student by developing depth or breadth of knowledge or skills or the application of knowledge or skills in ways not typically available in a traditional classroom setting. A significant majority of students who complete Honors contracts select projects that involve writing a research paper on a topic relevant to the course or completing extra reading assignments and submitting a reflection paper, but ***we encourage students (and faculty) to be creative and go beyond a traditional research paper!*** While writing a paper can be a valuable learning experience, there are many other, more creative options and options that may be more useful and engaging for students.

The purpose of this Appendix is to provide students (and faculty) with examples of creative Honors contract projects that may inspire their own ideas about what is possible. The shortened examples below come from actual contracts that EMU Honors students created with their professors across a variety of classes and academic disciplines. Students may also work in a faculty member's lab as their Honors contract project or do the work of graduate students in an undergraduate course that is cross-listed with a graduate course.

Students interested in learning more about suggestions for Honors contract projects should visit the video posted on the [Honors Courses and Contracts page](#) of The Honors College website.

AMUS 416A, Principal Applied Music

The student created a slide presentation on an overview of the principal trumpets of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1936 and then presented that to the class.

ATM 302, Fashion Manufacturing Techniques

While other students in the class used the Pattern Design System to design a handbag, print it on paper, and assemble it using tape and other office materials, the student doing the contract made their handbag out of fabric, cutting it on the industrial cutter machine and sewing it into a functional handbag that could be used as a portfolio piece.

CNST 201, Construction Systems

The student designed and constructed entirely new cabinets for a room in their house and then documented the activity in a series of photos, showing their progress. The student also wrote a report, explaining how techniques learned in class allowed them to complete the project.

COSC 341, Programming Languages

The student worked on creating a way to edit and run SML files in a more convenient way than currently available methods. Specifically, the student looked into creating a plugin for VisualStudio Code that would allow a user to pipe the current file into the SMLNJ compiler and present the output to the user through a pop-up dialog or, preferably, directly to the console built into VSCode.

CTAR 380, Musical Theater Acting

The student learned to perform two additional pieces of music from the musical *Ragtime*. The purpose was to explore the scope of a particular character within a specific show and to expand her vocal range.

EDPS 340, Introduction to Assessment and Evaluation

Students in the course were required to visit a nearby school to administer a test and analyze the results. The student with the contract completed this exercise twice, administering a different test each time.

EECE 341, Engineering Electronics I

The student constructed a circuit, using BJTs, transistors, MOSFETS, and/or diode logic to further their understanding of these devices and their use in everyday electronics.

ENGL 409W, Teaching English in Secondary Schools

The student wrote letters to the authors of each of the assigned texts, expressing their appreciation of the text and explaining how the authors' books impacted the student's view on teaching English at the secondary level and how they planned to implement the texts in their future classroom.

ESSC 448, Hydrogeology

The student collected four sediment samples from Miller's Creek in Ann Arbor and then learned to use permeameters to identify the hydraulic connectivity of the samples. The student also dried and sieved the samples to sort the sediments by grain size and plotted them on a grain-size curve.

EXSC 410, Exercise Testing

The student presented a comparison of VO₂max testing to the two submaximal testings completed by the entire class to test the reliability of the submaximal tests. The student also compared the data to the ACSM guidelines for VO₂max and submaximal testing.

GHPR 335, Historic Preservation

The student researched a selection of artifacts and then set up a display, with descriptions, as if they had created a museum exhibit.

MATH 121, Calculus II

The student took the place of the professor on a date late in the semester and taught a topic from the Calculus textbook, which required staying ahead of the class, completing most of the sample problems from the text, and writing an active lesson plan for the class period. The student then met with the professor to discuss what went well and what they would change if they were to do the exercise again.

MUTH 236, Pre-Internship Clinical Training

Two students (both doing contracts) worked together to write a hello and goodbye song for a music therapy session. They also shared the songs with the class and wrote a summary of what populations and goals the songs were best suited for.

PLSC 386, U.S. Supreme Court

The student participated outside of class in the Oral Argument Competition for the AMCA Moot Court, which also meant writing two speech outlines.

PSY 301W, Introductory Experimental Psychology

The student served as an assistant to other students in the class to help them with their writing assignments.

RDNG 310, Literacy Across the Curriculum in the Intermediate Grades

The student planned exercises for and led a reading discussion group with four children from a local elementary school. The student documented the behaviors they observed while the children were reading, completing worksheets, and discussing the story and then the student analyzed how they might change the exercises for their future classroom.

SAG 245, Story Development

The student created additional animations beyond those required of other members of the class.

SOCL 308, Social Psychology

The student used social identity theory and then employed an expressive medium to illustrate what they believed to be aspects of their self and social identity and how those changed over time. In addition to submitting the illustrative expression (a playlist, poetry, drawings), the student wrote a 4-page paper about social identity theory and its application to their experience.

SWRK 315, Theoretical Bases for Generalist SW Practices

The student created and ran an in-class activity, where groups of classmates agreed on a character from a book or movie and then applied the theories learned in class to determine how best to “treat” the character. The groups then presented their cases and defended their decisions, and the student wrote a reflection paper describing the outcomes and success of the activity.

TSLN 330, TESOL Methodology: Literacy

The student worked with the professor to assist with the pre-assessment and post-assessment of English Language Learners in a local after-school program and then helped with data analysis and a presentation to the community.