

College Honors Program

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The College Honors Program provides a high level of challenge and stimulation to talented students who seek a broad educational experience. TCNJ College Honors is not a departmental program. It serves students in all majors in all schools of the College.

Honors courses meet liberal learning requirements, so students in the program may complete part of the liberal learning requirements with courses exclusive to the Honors Program. Thus, completion of the Honors Program does not require students to take additional courses, only different ones. Classes are small, encouraging interaction with professors and other talented students.

Some honors courses are team-taught by a pair of faculty members from different disciplines. Graduates of the program receive special recognition on diplomas and transcripts.

Membership:

Entering Freshmen: membership in honors is by invitation only. Typically, only students who have scored 1350 or higher on the SAT (both Math and Verbal have to be 580 or above) and are in the top 15% of their high school class are considered for possible membership. In recent years, students admitted into the Honors program have an average SAT (Math and Verbal) above 1400 and an average high school class rank in the top 5%. Less than 10% of incoming freshman are invited to join the program.

Matriculated and Transfer students: after completing at least 16 credits in a single semester, students with a GPA of 3.50 or higher may apply to join the program. Application materials are available in the Honors Program Office (Green Hall, room 109).

Prerequisite for all honors courses:

Membership in the College Honors Program or permission of instructor.

It is *strongly recommended* that incoming freshmen who have been admitted into the College Honors Program enroll in an Honors Freshman Seminar. (Freshmen in the Honors Program must complete at least one honors course during the first semester in residence at the College.)

Requirements to Complete the College Honors Program

- A student must complete five units of Honors study. The five units may be earned through coursework, study abroad, or independent research.
- Of the five units, one must be completed during the first semester in residence at the College as an Honors student. (Most incoming freshmen complete this requirement by enrolling in an Honors First Year Seminar.)
- A second unit must be completed by a student's fourth semester in the program.
- Of the five units, one must be in philosophy or religion and one must meet the College's Global requirement. (No single course can be used to meet both of these requirements.)
- Departmental Honors projects can (upon approval by the Honors and Scholars Program Council) count toward the five units of Honors.

- Two of the five units can be earned through honors-by-contract study. Honors-by-contract allows a student to complete a traditional course for honors credit, when the student and professor together agree to a set of enhancements (in research or performance) that raise the demands placed on the student to the Honors level. More information on honors-by-contract can be found at <http://honors.pages.tcnj.edu/honors-by-contract>.
- One unit taken during study abroad may count toward College Honors, when approved in advance by the Honors Coordinator.
- A student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.50 and a GPA in Honors courses of 3.00 to remain in good standing. If a student falls below these standards, the student has 12 months to get the GPA back up.
- In order to successfully complete the Honors Program, a student's GPA (both TCNJ overall and Honors specifically) must be in good standing at the time of graduation.