

College Honors Program

Faculty: Heisler, *Coordinator*; Faculty teaching Honors courses, leading Honors-by-Contract and Independent Research experiences varies from semester to semester

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

Honors courses meet liberal learning requirements. Students in the Program may complete the liberal learning requirements with courses exclusive to Honors, as well as courses cross-listed with Honors and Honors-by-Contract experiences. Thus, completion of the Honors Program does not require students to take additional courses, only specific and targeted ones. Honors classes are typically small, encouraging intense interaction with professors and peers.

Occasionally, Honors courses are team-taught by a pair of faculty members from different disciplines.

Graduates of TCNJ's Honors Program receive special recognition on their diploma and transcript.

Membership:

Entering Freshmen: membership in the Honors Program is by invitation only. Typically, only students who have scored 1240 or higher on the SAT (with a minimum 600 for Math and 640 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing [ERW]), or scored a 26 or higher on the Composite of the ACT, *and* are in the top 15% of their high school class are considered for Honors membership. In recent years, students admitted into the Honors Program have an average SAT above 1400 and/or an ACT above 31, and an average high school class rank in the top 5%. Less than 10% of incoming freshman are invited to join TCNJ's Honors Program.

Matriculated and Transfer Students: after completing at least 16 credits in a single semester, TCNJ students with a GPA of 3.50 or higher may apply to join the Honors 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 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, and/or independent research.
- Of the five Honors 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 Freshman Seminar.)
- A second Honors unit must be completed by a student's fourth semester in the Program.
- Of the five Honors 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 agree to a set of enhancements (in research and/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 a study abroad experience may count towards the five required Honors units, if approved in advance by the Honors Coordinator.
- A student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA in Honors courses of 3.0 to remain in good standing in the Honors Program. Students who fall below these standards have 12 months to bring their GPAs back to the minimum.
- In order to complete the Honors Program successfully, a student's GPA (both TCNJ overall and Honors specifically) must be in good standing at the time of graduation.