

College Honors Program

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Overview

The College of New Jersey Honors Program provides challenging and stimulating opportunities to highly talented students who seek to enhance their educational experience at TCNJ. TCNJ College Honors is not a departmental program. It is a smaller community of like-minded scholars that serves students in all majors in all schools of the College.

Students complete the requirements of the Honors Program by creating an individualized curriculum that includes a wide range of course options. Because these courses satisfy liberal learning, major, or minor requirements, completion of the Honors Program does not require students to take additional courses, only different ones that are specific and targeted to the Honors Program. Classes are even smaller than typical TCNJ courses, and many of the courses are only available to Honors students. Occasionally, Honors courses are team-taught by a pair of faculty members from different disciplines.

The TCNJ Honors Program is administered by the Honors Program Coordinator and The Honors and Scholars Council (HSC), of which the Coordinator is a member. The HSC works with the Coordinator to assess the Program's curricula and policies, to approve Honors course offerings, and to provide recommendations related to the Program's events and awards.

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

Membership

Membership is through invitation or recommendation by a faculty member.

a. Membership for entering first year students:

Entering first year students who demonstrate high academic achievement in high school and the desire to engage in courses and projects that promote deep thought and engagement are selected for admission to the TCNJ Honors Program. Students are invited to become members of the Honors Program as part of their admission to TCNJ. Typically, students will have scored 1240 or higher on the SAT (with a minimum 600 for Math and 640 for Evidence-Based Reading/Writing) or scored a 26 or higher on the Composite of the ACT and are in the top 15% of their high school class for consideration to the TCNJ Honors Program. 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 First Year students are invited to join TCNJ's Honors program.

b. Membership for Matriculated and Transfer students:

Matriculated and Transfer students may apply to join the program after completing at least 4 units (4 units at TCNJ are typically equivalent to 12-16 credits at other institutions), with a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Application materials are available in the Honors Program Office (Green Hall, room 109) and online (<https://honors.tcnj.edu/applying/>).

Course Prerequisites

Enrollment in Honors courses requires membership in the College Honors Program. Incoming first-year students who have been admitted into the Honors Program should enroll in an Honors First Seminar. First-year students enrolled 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. Units may be earned through a combination of Honors courses, study abroad courses, Honors-by-Contract course enhancements, and Honors Projects. For incoming first-year students, one of the five units should be an Honors First Seminar.
- Of the five Honors units, one must be completed during the first semester in residence at the College as an Honors student.
- 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 another must meet the College's Global requirement. No single course can be used to meet both of these requirements.
- Honors Projects, upon approval by the Honors and Scholars Program Council, may count toward the five units of Honors.
- Two of the five units may be earned through Honors-by-Contract study. Honors-by-Contract allows a student to complete a non-Honors course for Honors credit when the student and professor agree to a set of enhancements that raise the course outcomes 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 (including Winter or Summer terms) may count toward the five required Honors units. The specific course taken for Honors credit must be approved in advance by the Honors Program 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.
- To complete the Honors Program successfully, a student's GPA (both overall and Honors specifically) must be in good standing at the time of graduation.