

College Honors Program

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Overview

The College of New Jersey Honors Program provides challenging and stimulating opportunities to students who seek to enhance their educational experience at TCNJ. The TCNJ Honors Program is not a departmental program; it is a community of 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 several 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 smaller than typical TCNJ courses, and many of the courses are only available to students enrolled in the Honors Program. 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 curriculum and policies, approve Honors course offerings, and provide recommendations related to the Program's events and awards.

Graduates of TCNJ's Honors Program receive special recognition on their transcripts.

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 invited to become members of the Honors Program, as part of their admission to TCNJ. Those who benefit from the Program have excellent writing skills, demonstrate creativity both in and out of the classroom, display high-level conceptual and integrative ways of thinking, and are open to new knowledge and points of view. Most are in the top 15% of their high school class and are characterized by their teachers as having exceptional intellectual curiosity, drive, and scholarly maturity. The Honors Program seeks to identify students from diverse backgrounds who will not only benefit from the Program's curricular and co-curricular offerings, but will be synergists for creativity and innovation within the Honors community and the campus as a whole. Due

to the program's small size, less than 10% of incoming first-year students can be invited to join TCNJ's Honors program.

b. Membership for Matriculated and Transfer students:

Matriculated and transfer students may also apply to join the program after completing at least 4 units, with a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Two letters of recommendation from TCNJ faculty are requested for students who are matriculated at TCNJ. 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 require 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 should complete at least 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 should be completed during the first semester in residence at the College as an Honors student.
- A second Honors unit should be completed by a student's fourth semester in the Program.
- Of the five Honors units, one should 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.
- An Honors Project, upon approval by the Honors and Scholars Council, may count toward one of 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 <https://honors.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 reviewed and approved in advance by the Honors Program Coordinator.
- To remain in good standing in the Honors Program, a student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 *and* a GPA in Honors courses of 3.0. Students who fall below these standards have 12 months to bring their GPAs back to the minimum.
- To complete the Honors Program, a student's GPA (both overall and Honors specifically) must be in good standing at the time of graduation.