

## Honors and Scholars 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. 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.

### Admission Guidelines & Criteria:

Any full-time TCNJ undergraduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is eligible to apply for admission to TCNJ's Honors & Scholars Program. First-year students may not apply in their first semester at TCNJ. Applications for admission must be submitted in the Fall or Spring semesters; there is no option to apply during Winter or Summer sessions.

### Process:

To initiate the application for admission, students must submit an Intention to Apply to Honors & Scholars. ([Click here for a copy of the required form.](#))

Students who plan to submit an application for admission at the start of the Fall semester must submit this form no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 15th of the preceding Spring semester. Students

who plan to submit an application for admission at the start of the Spring semester must submit this form no later than 4:00 p.m. on Dec. 15th of the preceding Fall semester.

By 4:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the Fall/ Spring semester, students must upload an application package to Canvas. Applications must contain all of the following items:

- Letter of Recommendation from a college faculty member who is familiar with the student's work. [Click here](#) for the reference form: faculty should submit this form electronically by 4:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the semester.
- A previous scholarly or creative work; several possible examples are listed below. **In accordance with TCNJ's Academic Integrity Policy, any work submitted must be the student's own. Please ensure that any files submitted can be opened, viewed, and assessed via Canvas.**
  - A scholarly essay of, at most, 2,000-2,500 words (All scholarly work must include appropriate and consistently formatted citations; these citations are not considered part of the total word count.)
  - A creative work of up to 2000 words or approximately 10 pages
  - A 3-5 minute video
  - A website, webpage, or software with instructions
  - Sheet music with an accompanying audio/video performance
  - 3-5 original photographs
  - 3-5 documentation photos of a work of art or art installation
  - mathematical work or a problem set
- A 500-750-word essay that responds to all of the questions in the following prompt.

Explain how the scholarly/creative product that you have submitted for consideration is reflective of at least 2 of the 3 Pillars of TCNJ's Honors & Scholars Program: how have Depth, Integration, and/or Purpose informed your creative/ intellectual vision and/or approach to your academic pursuits? ([Click here](#) for a description of the Honors Pillars.) What—if anything—would you change about the process that led to the creation of this scholarly/creative product? If you were to return to or continue to pursue this project, what might you revise, expand upon, or do differently now, and why?

Students will be notified of the result of their application no later than 4:00 p.m. on Oct. 15th (for applications submitted at the start of the Fall semester) or March 15th (for applications submitted at the start of the Spring semester). Students denied admission into the Honors & Scholars Program may reapply; however, a student may apply for admission no more than twice.

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Honors & Scholars Program Coordinator, in consultation with 3-4 members of the Honors & Scholars Program faculty, who will receive a stipend for their work.

**Assessment of Honors & Scholars Program Applications:**

All applications will be scored using the following rubric:

**Score definitions:**

- 0/ poor or incomplete
- 1/ fair (occasionally unclear and/or lacks detail)
- 2/ good (clear, but missing some detail)
- 3/ excellent (clear and detailed)

Application explains clearly how the academic essay or creative work submitted is reflective of at least 2 of the 3 pillars of the Honors Program.	0	1	2	3
Application clearly explains how Depth, Integration, and/or Purpose have informed the applicant’s creative/ intellectual vision and/or approach to their academic pursuits.	0	1	2	3
Application demonstrates applicant’s capacity for self-critique.	0	1	2	3
Application demonstrates applicant’s commitment to ongoing scholarly/ creative processes.	0	1	2	3

**Honors & Scholars Program Curriculum Requirements**

1. 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.
2. A second Honors unit should be completed by a student’s fourth semester in the Program.
3. Of the five Honors units, one should be in philosophy or religion, and another must meet the Honors Global requirement. No single course can be used to meet both of these requirements. Honors courses that meet the College’s global requirement automatically meet the Honors Global requirement, but not vice versa.
4. An Honors Project, upon approval by the Honors and Scholars Council, may count toward one of the five units of Honors. More information about the Honors Project can be found at <https://honors.tcnj.edu/honors-project/>
5. 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/>.
6. 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.

7. 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 requirement.
8. To complete the Honors Program, a student's GPA (both overall and Honors specifically) must be in good standing at the time of graduation.